
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE

A MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUP



OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME

Goals for tonight's presentation and discussion:

- Reflecting on why Racism is a Life Issue for all of us
- Listening to the voices of others to better understand them
- Growing in Christian love for each other and in unity

TONIGHT'S SPEAKER: MONSIGNOR MICHAEL CARRUTHERS



Monsignor Carruthers is a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami, currently serving as Parochial Administrator of Resurrection Parish, Riverview. Among his other assignments, he served as Rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary, Miami, from 2005 to 2010, followed by six years as Pastor of St. Augustine Parish and the Catholic Student Center at the University of Miami (2010-2016). He served as Parochial Vicar of St. Cecelia Parish, Clearwater before his assignment at Resurrection Parish.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: GERRI DRUMMOND

Gerri was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and migrated to Tampa in 1983. She is a mother and grandmother as well as a parishioner at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Tampa, where over the years she has served as a Catechist, Altar Server Coordinator and Youth Minister. Gerri prepared for Lay Ecclesial Ministry through LPMI and was commissioned in 2010. She's a member of Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. and is currently serving as the Junior Daughter Counselor, a mentor to girls ages 8 to 18. In addition, she is a member of the diocesan Committee on Catholic Scouting for Girls and the diocesan Life, Justice & Advocacy Committee. Gerri has also previously served on the Hillsborough County Community Action Board. Gerri is currently employed with TECO in the Role of Social Services Coordinator, Credit & Collection, and serves on the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition Board, advocating for those struggling to afford energy needs.



PERSONAL TESTIMONY: GERRI DRUMMOND




SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION EXPECTATIONS

We commit to:

- Remain mindful that each person is sacred, a dwelling for the Holy Spirit, and that our purpose is to build understanding among members of the Christian community.
- Share speaking time and refrain from interrupting others.
- Speak for ourselves, using “I” statements. We won’t try to speak for a whole group of people, nor will we expect others to do so.
- “Pass” or “pass for now” when needed — no explanation required.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION EXPECTATIONS

- Speak about our experiences in ways that respect other people's experiences. Commit to honoring differences, knowing they add to the richness of the community's experience.
- Listen with resilience, "staying with it" even when something may be hard to hear.
- Keep what we hear today confidential. This means that we will not attribute particular statements to particular individuals by any identifying information.



“Never let evil talk pass your lips; say only the good things men need to hear, things that will really help them. Do nothing that will sadden the Holy Spirit with whom you were sealed against the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ.” ~St. Paul, the Apostle (Ephesians 4:29-32)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

1. Did anything stand out to you from Monsignor's reflection? Do you see racism as a life issue in a new way?
2. What is your response to the testimony shared tonight? Did Gerri's story remind you of some experience in your own life?
3. Why do you think it is that we can see (or experience) the same event and come away with a different opinion as to whether or not it is racially motivated?
4. How does your faith suggest you respond to events in our community and nation?
5. How can tonight's discussion help you seek unity with others rather than division?

JOIN US NEXT MONTH!

Save the date for next month's discussion:

Thursday, November 19, 7 – 8 PM on Zoom

Speaker: Dr. Moneque Walker-Pickett, Professor at St. Leo University

Topic: The Result of No Action

Dr. Moneque Walker-Pickett is Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, and has been a member of the Saint Leo Community since 2010. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and Africana Studies from the University of Miami, a Juris Doctor (law) degree from the University of Florida, and a PhD in Sociology, with a concentration in Race and Ethnic Relations and Criminology, from the University of Miami. This multidisciplinary background in law and sociology guides her research interests in socio-legal scholarship exploring the intersectionality of race and ethnicity, gender, crime, and public policy.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you for joining us!

We hope to see you again next month.