

## **St. Benedict Justice & Diversity Reading/Discussion Group**

We are excited to invite all adults connected in any way to the Saint Benedict community to join us for the first meeting of the "justice & diversity reading/discussion group."

**What:** As we approach the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 4, 1968), our first meeting will be an opportunity to reflect on his message for and challenge to American society. All who are interested are invited to read a letter and two speeches by Martin Luther King, then join us for a dialogue about the relevance of King's words for today's society. All three of these resources can be accessed online using the links at the bottom of this document (contact David LaGuardia if you would prefer hard copies).

\*A discussion guide (involving quotes from and reflection questions on the readings) will be provided to aid conversation and so those who didn't have time to read can more easily engage some of the themes of Dr. King's words.

\*When the meeting concludes, those in attendance will have an opportunity to suggest readings and/or topics relating to justice/diversity for our next meeting. This group will be driven and directed by those who attend and future topics will be responsive to their interests.

**Why:** Our aim is to give all in attendance an opportunity (1) to share their perspectives and insights on the readings and topics and (2) to be enriched by the thoughts of others who attend the meetings. Hopefully, this group will also provide a space to discuss important issues affecting our community and society.

**When:** Monday, March 19 (6:15-8:00 P.M.)

**Where:** St. Augustine Room (near cafeteria in the basement of St. Benedict)

Note: If you would like to attend, but do not have childcare, we will show a movie or have an activity for kids in a neighboring room.

Please contact David LaGuardia or the school office to RSVP for the first meeting or if you have questions/comments about this group.

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### Readings (meeting 1)

1. Letter from Birmingham Jail (April, 1963)

[http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/annotated\\_letter\\_from\\_birmingham/index.html](http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/annotated_letter_from_birmingham/index.html)

-A letter Dr. King wrote in response to Christian ministers who criticized the Civil Rights movement while he was in a jail in Birmingham.

2. Where do we go from here (August, 1967)

[http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/where\\_do\\_we\\_go\\_from\\_here\\_delivered\\_at\\_the\\_11th\\_annual\\_slc\\_convention.1.html](http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/where_do_we_go_from_here_delivered_at_the_11th_annual_slc_convention.1.html)

-reading note: Beginning of this speech is a history of the accomplishments of the movement. There is some info on King/SCLC's northern initiatives (especially in Chicago & Cleveland). If you prefer to avoid the historical context of the speech, you could begin reading "Now there are many other things I could tell you" (probably about a 3rd of the way down).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Whkvt3uLbIA> (audio)

3. Beyond Vietnam (April, 1967)

[http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/doc\\_beyond\\_vietnam/index.html](http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/doc_beyond_vietnam/index.html)

-Delivered exactly one year before Martin Luther King was killed, some believe it was one of his most important speeches, it also was one of his most criticized speeches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC1Ru2p8OfU&t=473s> (audio)