



Invitational Zoom Event July 25, 2020

submitted by Kathy Noether
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An invitational zoom event on systemic racism and our response to it was very well attended by Sisters and Associates of Notre Dame de Namur, East West Unit on July 25, 2020. In response to the SNDdeN Anti Racism Team (ART) which aired a zoom conversation earlier in June, Associates felt the need to expand this experience so that more participants could be part of the discussion. Kathy Noether and Amy Jobin, SNDdeN Associates, facilitated this presentation with over 50 Sisters and Associates participating. Sister Teresita Weind, SNDdeN International Congregational Leader, led us in prayer citing James Robert Lewis and the profound model of his life and impact on the hopes of equality and anti racism. Sister Patty Chappell, member of the SNDdeN E-W Leadership Team, ART Co-chair and former executive director of Pax Christi, took us through an overview of the formation of ART, and the history of how we got where we are and where we are going in recognizing the historical shame we as a culture have tried to cover up, but not erased. Sabrina Harper, SNDdeN Associate and one of the west coast ART members, shared her perspective as an associate and researcher of American History. She gave insights stating reasons she is committed to ART and how it is moving forward with dialog and structures within Notre Dame.

Through sharing in the break out session, Sisters and Associates gave ideas and stories which surfaced to break down walls, allowed us to express our emotions, and gave us a forum of support for one another. Individual Sisters and Associates stated what they experienced within their groups and what was in their hearts. This time was sensitive and healing, particularly in light of both the pandemic and protests.

Sister Teresita closed with a prayer and blessing for us all in communal fellowship as Sisters and Associates working together as companions and dear friends. We look forward to another time of deep sharing and coming together in this space of uncertainty and unrest. Our conversation gave us all time to breathe and move ahead with a commitment to our gospel values and shared charism in Notre Dame.

Some were not able to take part in the June conversations and/or July 25th conversations. We have included the video link that will give you a sense of the conversations that took place in June from the ART's zoom. We invite you to view this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHk1g8AChsk&feature=youtu.be> with these questions in mind:

1. After watching the video, hearing George Floyd's dying words, and hearing the responses from our sisters and associates, how are you feeling at this moment?
2. What can I do to continue the personal and communal transformation called for in Notre Dame as a sister, as an associate and a co-worker