



MLK Week Executive Summary

Salve Regina's MLK Week planning committee seeks to strengthen our commitment to living out our mercy mission and advancing the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy (anti-racism, immigration, earth, women and nonviolence) in increasingly tangible and measurable ways.

The committee envisions the celebration the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. as a means of reflecting on our history and mobilizing toward social action. The committee provides overall guidance, mentoring and implementation of the week and seek to ensure that these offerings advance the work of Salve Regina's mission, strategic compass and the newly formed President Commission on Equity and Inclusion.

The committee adopts three days of events focused on the mercy critical concerns, centered on the critical concerns of anti-racism and nonviolence. This thematic approach allows for coordinated opportunities to engage with multiple community partners and the assurance that the University community will encounter Salve Regina's mission in action.

Learning Goals

- Engage the legacy and import of the life and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement in redressing systemic racism nationally, locally and in our community.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the history and structures of racial inequality in the United States, Rhode Island and Salve Regina and identify the ways in which the dominant culture and structures of privilege continues to influence institutional policies and practices and lead to patterns of discrimination.
- Explore the ways in which our Salve Regina community can challenge individual and institutional privilege and oppression, affirming the rights and responsibilities that flow from our shared human dignity and advance our mercy mission.

Events follow the framework of past-present-future:

- Past – Examine the history of systemic racism in the U.S. and the history of the civil rights movement.
- Present – Engage in a robust social analysis of persistent racial disparities from the perspective of our immediate Salve Regina community, our local Newport community and the U.S. more broadly.
- Future – Offer a vision for how we can advance the work of racial justice, seeking to transform our institutional structures and local community through committed action here at Salve Regina and beyond.