

## “I have a dream...”

Starting the Martin Luther King, Jr. remembrance weekend, we invited everyone to complete the sentence “I have a dream...” as a moment to not only recall Dr. King’s guiding words, but also to bring light to each other. We have received a wonderful response which we will continue to share in the weeks ahead. Here are some lovely samples.



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### The poetry of trees

I have a dream that the language of trees  
Is translated into color and sound  
So vibrant and melodious  
That people start to hum the invisible tunes of branches and roots,  
Awakening to awareness of bark and twig entwined with their own human limbs.  
I dream that scars fall from their blind eyes  
So they look anew at the infinite tapestry of rich hues radiating from the earth’s soil.  
I dream that the wooden words of trees wake humanity before our hearts lament their final departure.

Dr. Colleen Corrigan

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I have a dream that our nation will one day be a genuine melting pot of all diverse cultures and the beacon for compassionate democracy, one that is built on humility, kindness, justice, and equity for all.

Joe Chan

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Amy Wittak, Director of Liturgy, presented her dream during the Wednesday evening prayer service on January 20. To hear her dream visit [lumenchristicc.online.church](https://lumenchristicc.online.church) and scroll down to Evening Prayer and look for the January 20 liturgy. Or visit the Lumen Christi Facebook page and look for Evening Prayer 01.20.2021 under videos.

Amy Wittak

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I have a dream  
that everyone is taught as my mother taught us,  
to show love and respect for all of God's children,  
since by living our lives in that spirit, understanding and empathy quickly follow.



That it will be at long last understood that one single human being  
has never been born with hatred in their soul.

That it's naturally understood that all humankind is created by Our Father and as such  
our blood is red, our internal organs are all identical and our capacity for love has been given to us all.

That while dreams are free, freedom is something that is advanced only when  
understanding is thoroughly practiced by everyone and then  
it is earned by our actions and words, deeds and morals, open-mindedness and shared values, and love.

David and Susan Beecham

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**I have a dream** that we will no longer take anything for granted, whether it's the people who care for, help and serve us (seen or unseen) and the gifts we receive every day from God, whether welcome or unwelcome, important or unimportant.

Anonymous

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**I have a dream** that all Creation will be radiant with the Light and Love of God.

I have a dream that hearts and minds will be changed and that together we will remake the systems that harm people and our planet.

I have a dream that our society will choose to judge itself by the wellbeing of our poorest and most vulnerable members.

I have a dream that our long history of racism, bigotry and hatred will be replaced by a time in which all people are treated with respect and love.

I have a dream that the world of division and separation will be healed, and make way for the interdependence among all humans and with all living beings that God intended.

And I have a dream that as far away as all of this feels, that it is in fact closer at hand than any of us know. I have a dream that this future begins today with me and with all of Lumen Christi Catholic Community, as we strive to be the Light of Christ in the World.

Mike Harley

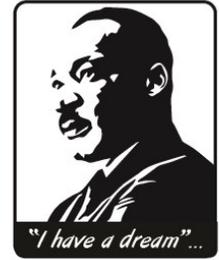
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**I have a dream** that American Catholics will accept the fulness of Catholic Social Teaching's principles and themes rather than focusing on single issues.

I also dream that the "other" or "stranger" (e.g. immigrant, foreigner, non-Catholic) will be accepted as a brother/sister.

Manuel López

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**I have a dream....**

Even though at times I could just scream!

So much division and hate

We need to act before it's too late.

Social justice for all

Or our democracy will fall.

It's not too late

We have the power to determine our fate.

Right, left, we must not fight

We need to listen to each other so we can unite.

I believe we can do better

If only we can work together.

January 20<sup>th</sup> is drawing near

Do not fear.

A new day, a new administration

We must begin the conversation.

Almost 60 years ago Martin spoke of his dreams

Now it is our turn, so it seems!

Mary Kleinberg

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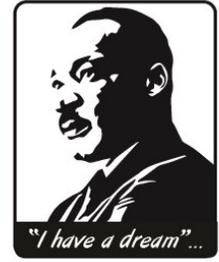
**I have a dream** that my adult children will find reason to rejoin the Catholic church.

And that the Catholic church finds unity within its own ranks, and that it shows sensitivity to all values professed in the Gospels.

John Novotny

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In 1968, I was a high school senior taught by SSJs in Rochester, NY. My fourth quarter religion project was a paper on Dr King, who was assassinated that April. I believed, and still do, in his vision of a society in which people work together toward the common good. And in which white people, especially Catholics, live up to our teachings about the dignity of all human persons that we memorized from the Baltimore Catechism.



I dream of Catholics being more informed and more attuned to trying to follow the prophetic example and teachings of Pope Francis relating to racism, migration, and environment. I would like to see all US bishops become leaders in showing us creative and effective ways to address racism, immigration, and the degradation of the environment. These issues are fundamental to our future. Catholics must address injustices in our society and try to find ways to end them.

Anne Klejment

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Sister Lynore Girmscheid has served as an educator, pastoral musician, and liturgist for many years. Now semi-retired, she has more time to de-clutter, minimalize and downsize possessions. “Even though my things were organized, that skill enabled me to more easily conceal the number of things I had. Downsizing has helped me to consider additional ways to live the vow of poverty within the care of creation. Living with less is one way for me to consume less—it’s not about having the least amount of things, but having the ‘right’ amount of things. Living intentionally as a minimalist is a tool to de-clutter things, even those things which have an emotional attachment. Although living a minimalist life-style is a process, I appreciate how it has freed me to live with less, limit acquisitions, and care for all of creation.”

Sr. Lynore Girmscheid, SSND

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**I have a dream** that world-wide, no one will participate in dehumanization of people, and that people will understand what respectful treatment is and consistently demonstrate the behaviors.

Cleta Galvez

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**I have a dream** that we will no longer take anything for granted, whether it's the people who care for, help and serve us (seen or unseen) and the gifts we receive every day from God, whether welcome or unwelcome, important or unimportant.

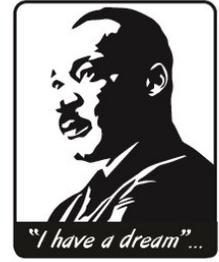
Anonymous

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### **I Have a Dream**

That one day,

- We, as a nation and Christians, fully embrace the ideals upon which this nation was founded;
- We, are all equal before our laws and God;
- We, are treated equally and have the same opportunities to gain good education and jobs with a living wage;
- We, receive the same quality care regardless of income and status;
- Our children are seen (and see themselves) as equals regardless of the color of their skin, gender, ethnicity, or country of origin;
- And our children become good, healthy, and civic minded individuals all working towards the better good of our communities and our country.



Ofelia Lopez

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**I have a dream...** When everyone puts on a smile in the morning before getting out of bed. Where a child's first word is love instead of no. Where the house we live in is a home. Where the family is the foundation of society. Where parents teach the fundamentals of discipline with love, respect, care, and obedience. I dream of a world filled with thanks and gratitude for what we have and are given. I dream of a world where the word bullying is non-existent; the word hate is not used. I dream of a world where everyone does a good deed or kind act for someone each day. I dream of when we live by the statement of JFK—Do what you can for your country—not what your country can do for you— Fly the flag — not burn it.

Anonymous

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**I have a dream** that we will celebrate every person as a child of God, uniquely gifted and precious, and that we will journey through this earthly life united in compassion and mercy as one body of Christ.

Dan Gleason

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We continue to welcome your submission in response to the sentence “I have a dream...”—in whatever form you choose – a sentence, an essay, a video or audio clip, a drawing, poem, or song. Send it to [lumensharethedream@gmail.com](mailto:lumensharethedream@gmail.com) or drop it off at the parish office. It can be anonymous if you prefer. We will curate the submissions and share with the parish.



I have a dream...  
that kindness and truth shall meet.  
Kindness.  
And  
Truth.  
And from that, peace and justice  
will flow like a river.

Borrowed from MLK and Psalm 85

Teri Parker Brown

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**Lumen Christi Social Justice**

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# DREAM DREAMS

**Prayer:** O Lord, let our dreams soar. Let all our inhibitions and fears disappear as we strive to make our hopes come into being. Give us the strength, courage and insight we will need as we work to bring our vision to reality. Let your Spirit guide us in our imaginations and our fantasies so that worries and anxieties will not overcome us, for it is only through dreams that the beauty and wonder of your kingdom will be made known to all humanity. Be with us, Lord, as our minds wander, as we dream *your* dreams.

**Reading:** Dreams come and go in our lives. Far more die than come to reality. What is it in us that allows us to let go of visions that could create new and beautiful worlds? Why do we so easily give in to barriers? Why do we let ourselves conform and be satisfied with what is? Reaching out to a dream can be risky. It can involve hardships that our imaginations never knew. Our comfortableness can so easily be disturbed. But, what beauty can be experienced as we accept the challenge of a dream! What a precious feeling to be supported, to have others say you can do it, we can do it together. Nothing is beyond our reach as we reach out together, if we reach out with all the confidence we have, if we are willing to persevere even in difficult times and if we rejoice with every small step forward, if we dream beautiful dreams that will transform our lives, our world. Nothing is impossible if we put aside our careful ways, if we build our dreams with faith—faith in ourselves, faith in our sisters and brothers, and above all, faith in our Lord God with whom all things are possible.

**All:** Lord, the more we dream the farther our hopes will take us. Let us be carried on the wings of our dreams with a confidence yet unknown. May we accept our challenges with unfounded enthusiasm and naïve expectations, for nothing is impossible in your midst. Let us be blind to obstacles and limitations as we build your glorious kingdom. May our romanticism be seen and received. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and brother, the ultimate dreamer. Amen.



### **I have a dream...**

I have a dream that every person would really get to know someone who is a different race from them and especially someone who is poor. We would better understand the struggles of racial injustice and poverty and not judge based on institutional theories.

One woman I have gotten to know is a black woman who is very poor. I was drawn to help her because we had some similar situations. We were both raising children as single parents. She never gives up no matter how hard life gets and she has a strong faith. Over the years I have learned things from her on what it means to be poor. For example, food markets do not solve the problem of food insecurity. They help but the problem is vast and resources are limited. Patrons can only visit once per month and in their zip code. Food assistance (SNAP) is outdated and does not meet the needs. Going to Dorothy Day for a meal requires a working car, gas money or bus fare. You may have to transfer on the bus with young children at night, in the dark and cold.

When I was first getting to know my friend, she was asking for support from our parish for a Thanksgiving meal. We proudly offered her and her family a Thanksgiving meal at a nice local restaurant. She called back and was so upset. She did not want to go and be fed she wanted to cook her traditional favorites for her family in her home. That was the first year I went to buy a ham, no turkey, collard and mustard greens, the fixings for homemade mac 'n cheese, rolls and a homemade cake for dessert. Their traditional family celebration meal. As we got to know each other more she asked if I would get some chitlins as well. It makes me laugh to think of the looks I used to get in the grocery store when people would look at my cart and then look at me. Now most of these foods are very main stream. Food is a good connector. When we know someone personally we want to support their dignity and give what makes them feel good.

My friend worked at McDonald's and once she gave me a coupon. Unthinking I laughed and told her a story about when I ate a Big Mac at the age of 9. As someone who often has to go hungry, she was absolutely incredulous that my parents would buy a 9 year old a Big Mac. It opened my eyes.

One of her daughters was offered a summer job through Parks and Rec in high school. It was stressful, she had to have a swim suit by Monday morning. That was a big obstacle for them.

When my friend had a heart attack she told me she did not have money to pay for the medications. I could not believe a doctor or health care system would prescribe medicine that the patient has no way of paying for. A year later I had a heart attack and was prescribed medication that would be impossible for me to pay for and large medical bills not covered by insurance, another connection for us, yet another broken system.

Now with COVID I see the contrast of parents who hire tutors to teach their children at home with plenty of access to technology versus children at home relying on schools for technology, internet and food. I see mothers who have to make a choice between working to keep their home or teach their children. A primary grade child is not capable of having the concentration to sit in front of a computer and complete instructions on their own.

My dream is to change the world by getting to know people because when you see racial injustice and poverty through someone you know and care about, you want to work for justice. Everything I have is from God so why shouldn't I share my blessings. (It is important to set your own boundaries because the needs will be endless.) What initially is a one way offer of help transforms into a friendship of support that travels both directions. I learn and respect her ways and she listens to and supports me on the tough days. We understand each other and that changes the world and creates trust and love in our children and friends to do the same. As Pope Francis said,

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love." "As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ."

"Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."

— Pope Francis

Quotes from *"In message for World Sick Day, pope calls for health care for all,"*  
*Catholic News Service, by Cindy Wooden, Jan. 12, 2021*