

Gerardine Majella Delambo (Jeri)

Personal statement regarding the I have a dream: a world without racism.

First I want to say how grateful I am to be part of this group. I had the privilege and pleasure to work with Peggy, Skipp and Sharon on drafting a proposed letter to the Archbishop and to the wonderful Bishop Bruce Lewandowski.

I have gone through periods in my life when I myself had racist attitudes toward individuals of color who I felt had betrayed me or hurt me. A few are as follows:

1. Being called white trash and thrown out of an African American woman's back yard when my friend and I took her African American boyfriend's cousin home from college classes. It was hurtful to me as I was anything but trash. Also, the woman did not recognize me at the time, but she was a sales clerk who I had many nice conversations with at her store.
2. Being denied by my African American coworkers and having to ask for a black armband to wear at work when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.
3. Armed robbed violently on our porch and in the hallway by two African American males and having the one the police caught found not guilty by a jury. The biggest problem I had with this incident is that one of the armed robbers hurt my dear husband, and we had to go to the ER.

I have tried to steer myself away from feelings of racial discrimination and am at a point in my life where I am going to do what Jesus would do. I am not going to claim white privilege, nor am I going to shame or blame others who struggle as I did.

Also, I am an attorney who has seen and fought against racial discrimination in the workplace through the EEOC and in the courts. I cannot do my job with integrity unless I am true to myself and continue to believe in and fight against systemic racism.

My parents Ken and Fran Berger were beloved very active members of St. V parish. I want to be part of the good work St V does for others.