Our Dangerous Times: Bigotry and the Big Lie

By Dennis Kalob, Ph.D.

Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities — Voltaire

When Donald Trump ran to political fame by leading the "birther movement"—raising doubt that President Obama was born in the U.S. and therefore questioning the very legitimacy of the presidency of the first African American to hold that office—induced a particularly greedy era in our nation's history.

The "birther" lie was given oxygen by certain conservative media and it found a receptive audience. A few years later, when Trump announced his presidential run, he deliberately chose to speak of immigrants and refugees in stark and stereotypical terms, playing to an audience eager to hear such depictions.

Denying his responsibility, Trump included white supremacist marchers (many chanting "Jews will not replace us") in his remarks about them being "very fine people on both sides" at the Charlottesville protests. He called Haiti and African nations "*sh*hole countries." Trump repeatedly referred to Senator Warren as "Pocahontas" and has called COVID-19 the "kung flu." A native of Mississippi, Warren has called Trump "a racist, sexist, and xenophobic president." As our number of enrolled students continues to rise, we need to make sure that each and every one has the opportunity for an excellent education. We are committed to ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success in life.

To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

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Take Five For Social Justice

Click the buttons below to sign a petition and send advocacy emails.

JSRI Future Activities

February 12
Fr. Kammer will provide a social analysis presentation concerning New Orleans to novices of the Jesuit Central and Southern Province working here in the city.

JSRI staff and associates—working from home—will continue monitoring local, state, and federal administrative, legislative, and judicial actions regarding our priority issues and the impact of Covid-19; participating in advocacy communications with elected leaders; recommending resources on our website and by social media; research and writing for our publications; and activating our advocacy network.

JSRI Recent Activities

December 22
JSRI released The State of Wrongs Wriggling 2020, authored by Dr. Dennis Kalob, and designed by Kelsey McLaughlin.

January 12
Dr. Sue Weishar interviewed Dr. Ashley Howard for the first edition of the new JSRI video series, State of Wrongs Wriggling.

January 13
JSRI staff went via zoom.

January 14
Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, addressed the current Jesuit Volunteers across the country on doing social analysis.

January 16
Fr. Kammer addressed the current Jewish Volunteers on circumstances.

January 20
Dr. Kammer participated in a planning meeting for the 2021 Loyola Student Peace planning meeting for the 2021 January 20 discernment.

Spring 2021 Semester
Dr. Dennis Kalob is teaching Social Problems to the Sociology Department here at Loyola University.

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Loyola University New Orleans

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