Canisius College Archives Speakers Series and Friends Present

Reflections: The 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Wednesday, April 4, 1968, an assassin shot civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, TN. He was 39.

Fifty years later, Canisius College joins churches and houses of worship, nationwide, along with the King family, to mourn him, when, as a mark of respect, the bells of Christ the King Chapel toll 39 times for Dr. King’s age at the time of his death.

Next week, when classes resume, the commemoration continues. Please join together to hear Dr. King’s last speech, “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.” The event, sponsored by the Office of the President and the Archives Speaker Series, will take place Thursday, April 12 in the ALB Library Learning Center, 1st floor, at 2 p.m.

The speech, given the night before he died, reveals Dr. King’s mood, motive, feelings of futility and the need to restore hope, and equality for the poor and people of color. He was called to Memphis to lend support to striking sanitation workers whose colleagues had lost their lives due to unsafe working conditions.

Participants, including some who attended King’s funeral, or lived in the deep South at the time of his death, will have the opportunity to discuss the speech and share their thoughts about Dr. King, his legacy, and today’s sense of equality.

These events are coordinated through the Office of the President, the ALB Library and Rev. J. Clayton Murray, SJ, Archives & Special Collections, Campus Ministry, members of the Immersion East Side Ignatian Seminar and All-College Honors program.

Light refreshments will be served.

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