

Alessandro Martinez

“The Time Is Now for Our Beloved Community” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Project and Showcase: An Interview with Alessandro Martinez

Interviewer: Who are the members of your community?

Alessandro: The members of my community are the police, the fire department, and ambulance. The police help protect us from bad people, who might do bad things like rob places. The police will take them to jail. The fire department help us, like, say if people leave the stove on, and a fire starts, then they come and use a big hose to put the fire out and see if people are still in there [the house]. The ambulance, they, like, if people got hurt like really, really bad, they put them in this truck and drive them to the hospital and then they put them into the room where the doctor checks them. There's, I forget what it's called, the mail, the post office, they help us by getting our mail or delivering packages in a car or walking. My family is also members of my community, including the business we have.

Interviewer: So how does this connect to King's vision of the “Beloved Community”?

Alessandro: So he wanted everyone to be good and not evil, so he wanted like instead of doing everything separate. These people help us to be good by coming to schools and everywhere around the world to tell people to be good. They teach us and go after the bad guys. They all help with Martin Luther King Jr's vision.

Interviewer: How can you take King's vision (of making the world a better more equal place) and apply it to the community?

Alessandro: If there are a lot of bad people maybe I can talk to them about what's right and what's wrong. I can be kind and respectful to everyone, even if it's an animal.

Interviewer: Where in your community do you see evidence of individuals striving to achieve “The Beloved Community”?

Alessandro: So people that try to make the world a better place is like maybe schools. In schools they help us learn. And maybe also, like, a lot of people go to school to learn and sometimes, even adults go to school to learn everything they should know.

Interviewer: What issue(s) should be approached through King's notion of “The Beloved Community”?

Alessandro: Bullying is one thing that could be worked on. So bullies could learn to be nice sometime. Bullies need to learn to calm it out if they are

mad and not take it out on other people. Like I get bullied. Some people say how like I sometimes show off, how we own a business and have a lot of money, so they bully me about that.

Interviewer: What is one thing you can do specifically to work towards attaining “The Beloved Community”?

Alessandro: Probably by like, if there's some bullies and not bullies, the good people should talk to the bullies about kindness and being respectful. May be teach them the Golden Rule, like how they should do it. So I can show people how to be kind, like if some people fall down, you can help them or if some people get left out a lot I can ask them to play with us.