



Novena for Racial Justice

Ignatian Solidarity Network

In the Catholic tradition, a Novena is an ancient prayer tradition, consisting of prayer for a specific intention over the course of nine days. Through this Novena for Racial Justice, the Jesuit and broader Catholic network is invited to unite in prayer for nine days, framed in the example of Catholic saints and servants of God who provide a witness and example for us in our work for racial justice.

Day 1

We begin our Novena, 9 days of prayer for racial justice, by asking for the grace to be able to share in God's vision for a world in which the dignity of all people is upheld, and for the strength to do the work to move closer to that vision.

Good and gracious God, who loved us into creation, thank you for the gift of life and community. Thank you for the gift of the ability to recognize injustice and for the desire to work for racial justice, so that all people may equally share in that gift of life. Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. Show me the parts of my heart, mind, and soul that You desire for me to transform or strengthen to better love Your people.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, intercede and obtain for us from God the grace of discerning ways that we are called to change our hearts, minds, and souls in order to build a more just world.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us.


Venerable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), Pray for us.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Servant of God, Sr. Thea Bowman, Pray for us.



Pray for us holy men and women, that we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 2

St. Katharine Drexel is the Catholic patron of racial justice. We ask today for the strength to move past what is comfortable to take bold risks and transform our lives for racial justice, as she embodied in her own life.

Gentle and loving God, we thank you for the examples of holy men and women who tirelessly work for justice. St. Katharine Drexel, patron saint of racial justice, tells us. "Jesus loved every human being as the image of God." May you enable us to follow her example in boldly loving every human as an image of you. St. Katharine Drexel, intercede and obtain for us from God the grace of leaving behind what is comfortable for what is just, to liberate all of God's people from the sin of white supremacy and anti-Blackness.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.

St. Peter Claver, Pray for us.

Vernable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), Pray for us.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

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Day 3

St. Martin de Porres is the Catholic patron saint of race relations and social justice. Following his example, we ask today for our eyes to be opened to the realities of systemic and cyclical racism and poverty in our society.

Amiable and admirable God, thank you for the example of Saint Martin de Porres' deep commitment to social justice. May you inflame in our hearts the same love as to share our gifts and talents in charity and solidarity for those most in need today, particularly in service to the work toward racial justice. Help us to be generous with our kindness and companionship in that work.

St. Martin de Porres, intercede and obtain for us from God the grace of standing with those who suffer due to systemic or cyclical racism and poverty, as you did throughout your life.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us.





St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.

St. Peter Claver, Pray for us.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.

Servant of God, Mother Mary Lange, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), Pray for us.

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Day 4

St. Peter Claver is the patron saint of racial justice. He dedicated his life to serving in the Caribbean those victimized by the slave trade. We ask for the grace to follow his example by prioritizing the most abused and neglected in our work for justice.

Most powerful and merciful God, thank you for the ministry of St. Peter Claver, S.J. in service to those victimized by slavery. In a similar fashion, may we jump at opportunities to those experiencing vulnerability, marginalization, trauma, oppression, and exhaustion from present day unjust systems.

St. Peter Claver intercede and obtain for us the grace of seeing true dignity of all people and moving our hearts towards compassion for others, both in acts of charity, meeting immediate needs, and justice, challenging and transforming systems that are at the root of injustice and oppression.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.


St. Peter Claver, Pray for us.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.

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Day 5

Venerable Teresa Chikaba was kidnapped and enslaved in Spain. After gaining her freedom, she became a Dominican sister, despite facing ongoing racism from Catholic leaders. May we have the strength to call out the sin of racism in the Catholic Church.

Generous and faithful God, thank you for the example of perseverance we see in Venerable Teresa Chikaba. May we imitate her commitment to our faith in calling out the grave sin of racism in the Catholic Church, and in any institution that presently and historically has benefitted from the oppression of Black people. May we show perseverance as she did in our work to build a Church and a society that casts off the sin of racism.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba, intercede and obtain for us from God the grace of perseverance in the face of oppression and white supremacy.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.

St. Peter Claver, Pray for us.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Pray for us.

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Day 6

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange was the foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first U.S. based religious order for Black women, providing empowerment and education for Black women and children. May we, like her, be steadfast in our work for racial equity.

Righteous and gracious God, we thank for the example of Servant of God Mother Mary Lange whose leadership and courage provided empowerment and education for Black women and children. May the





Holy Spirit guide our gifts, talents, and humility to follow in her footsteps, providing new opportunities for advocacy, inclusion, equity and Black-centered spaces, especially in the Catholic Church.

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Day 7

Venerable Zeinab Alif was kidnapped and enslaved in Italy, and then ransomed and entrusted to a convent. She later became a religious sister, despite oppression during an anti-Catholic phase in Italy. May we similarly work for justice, even in the face of oppression.

Kind and pursuing God, we thank you for the gift of Venerable Zeinab Alif, who as a child was kidnapped in Sudan and then enslaved. Fr. Nicolo Olivieri brought her to freedom in Italy, where she continued to experience oppression and racism. She took secret religious vows due to anti-Catholic sentiments in Italy.

Venerable Zeinab Alif, intercede and obtain for us from God the graces and favors we ask through your intercession. May we be granted the grace to tirelessly work for racial justice, even and especially in the face of anti-Blackness and white supremacy, as you fearlessly pursued your own vocation in the face of oppression.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us.

St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.

St. Peter Claver, Pray for us.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba, Pray for us.





Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Pray for us.

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Day 8

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton escaped from slavery and became the first recognized Black priest in the U.S. He dedicated his life to serving in Black Catholic parishes. May we be granted the grace to commit ourselves to our own local communities in our work for racial justice.

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, who escaped from slavery and became the first recognized Black priest in the United States. May we be inspired by his confidence in fulfilling the pastoral and ministerial work of God's kingdom in Black Catholic parishes, despite frequently facing pervasive racism in the Catholic Church.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, intercede and obtain for us from God the grace of continued confidence in fulfilling the will of God, and the grace of commitment to working diligently for racial equity in our own local parishes, schools, and communities.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

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Day 9

Sr. Thea Bowman dedicated her life to dismantling racial and cultural barriers that led to oppression, suspicion, hatred, and division through song, preaching, prayer and storytelling. May we similarly use our gifts and creativity in our work for racial justice.

Beautiful and magnificent God, we thank you for the gift of Sr. Thea Bowman. Her work to dismantle racial and cultural barriers shows how to work to seek equity, peace and reconciliation during times of ignorance and intolerance.

Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, intercede and obtain for us from God the graces and favors we ask through your intercession, especially the grace of both breaking down barriers in our Church and society and of using our gifts, talents, and creativity in doing so.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us.

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St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.

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