

Calendar Ideas

Archdiocese

- Provide sessions on the importance of ethnic and racial diversity for Archdiocesan and parish staffs, pastors, principals and teachers.
- Evaluate administrative hiring patterns so that persons in managerial and decision-making positions in the Archdiocese reflect the ethnic and racial composition of our diverse Catholic community.
- Identify and nurture vocations among Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Native peoples to serve as priests, deacons, religious women and men, and lay ecclesial ministers.
- Educate for ministry in a racially, ethnically and culturally diverse Archdiocese.
- Implement the Archdiocesan purchasing policies, which commit us to doing business with minority vendors.
- Avoid investing in companies that tolerate racism.
- Advocate for improved public transportation, allowing people in the inner city and neighboring suburban communities to take jobs in out-lying suburban areas.
- Support church-based community organizations that work for economic justice

Parishes

- Foster hospitality in general but especially to those that are culturally different from the dominant culture of the parish.
- Participate in programs to identify and nurture vocations among Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Native peoples as priests, deacons, religious women and men, and lay ecclesial ministers.
- Participate in civic and ecumenical/interfaith organizations that work to promote racial justice.
- Create various large and small group opportunities for family and small group opportunities to process their feelings in the midst of news and commentary about vulnerable populations and law enforcement. Encourage participants to reflect or share their own upbringing regarding comments in the home, from parents and individuals, media and entertainment, even practices of the Church about the merits

or demerits of certain groups of people made to be “the other.” Ask, “How have I knowingly or unconsciously made this formation part of my world view? Where could I have spoken up but didn’t?”

- Arrange a safe space for young people to reflect and pray about racism and recent events. Listen to the current experiences of young people. Encourage and allow their creative expression.
- Attend an intergenerational interracial virtual town hall discussion on racism, Respect that for some Blacks, Hispanics and others, talking about personal racial experiences in a mixed-race setting is painful as it is like reopening a wound that hadn’t fully healed.
- Use a pastoral and non-partisan lens to respond to concerns of family and community members about racism, policing and public safety. Do not politicize this. Lean on Gospel values instead.
- Invite your parish to incorporate regular dialogue among parishioners about their experiences with racism, prejudice and racial discrimination.
- Invite your parish, or faith-sharing group to host a conversation with a group of Blacks, Latino, Indigenous men and/or young people about their personal experiences with law enforcement.

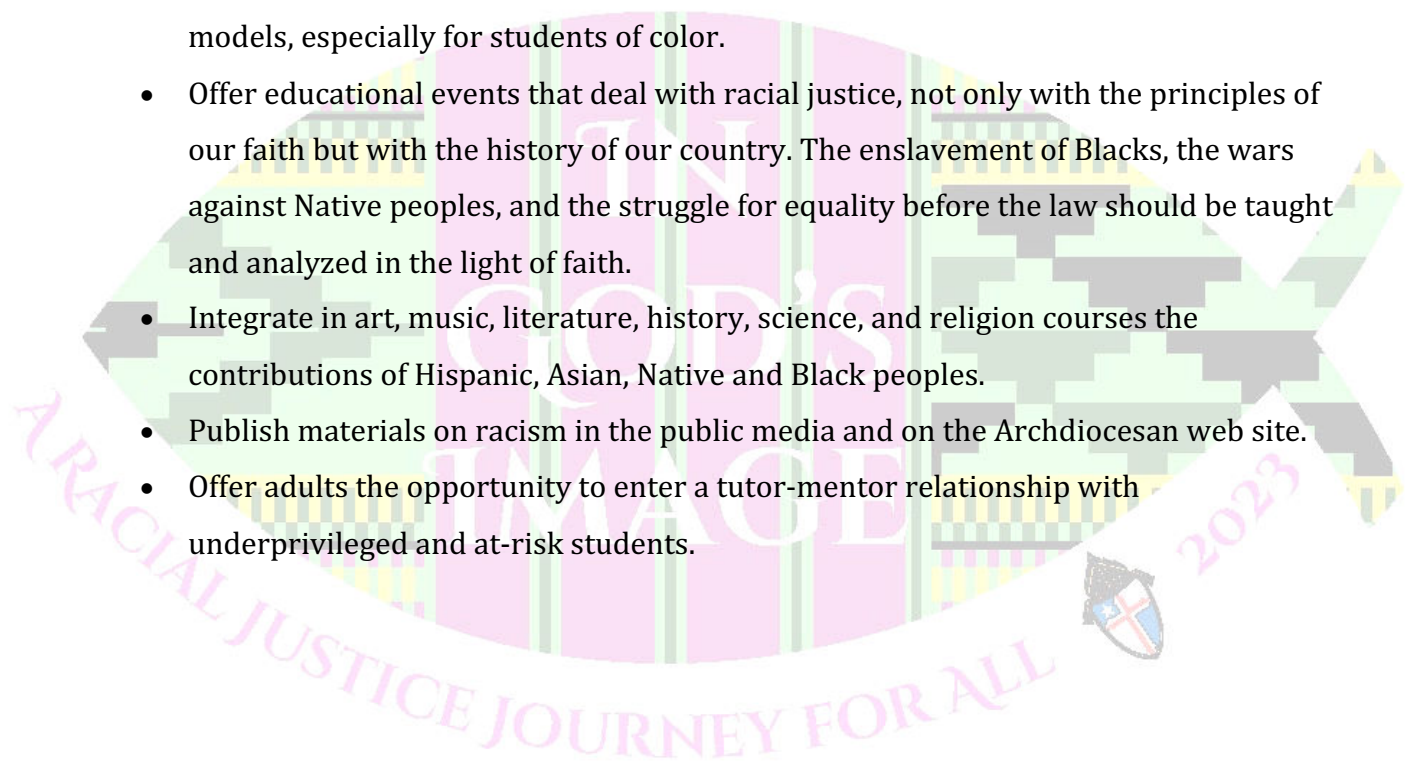
Liturgy

- Develop liturgical resources to celebrate unity in diversity and express the sinful nature of racism.
- Celebrate liturgies where the expression of our faith is reflected in the religious symbols, music and history of the many different peoples that make up the Archdiocese.
- Sponsor an annual Lenten service focused on racial reconciliation.
- Plan a Sunday as an anti-racism Sabbath.
- Include prayers for racial reconciliation and an end to racism in the intercessory prayers at the weekend Liturgies.
- Preach on racism and racial justice.

- Celebrate through liturgies and festivals the racial and ethnic heritage of parishioners.
- Pray for guidance and an end to racism, asking the intercession of saints such as St. Martin DePorres, St. Katherine Drexel, St. Josephine Josephine Bakhita, St. Peter Claver, Bl.Kateri Tekakwitha, Bl. Juan Diego, the six Black candidates for sainthood, and others who have especially promoted racial harmony and social justice.

Catholic Elementary Schools, High Schools, Colleges and Universities

- Diversify faculties and search for administrators and teachers that will be role models, especially for students of color.
- Offer educational events that deal with racial justice, not only with the principles of our faith but with the history of our country. The enslavement of Blacks, the wars against Native peoples, and the struggle for equality before the law should be taught and analyzed in the light of faith.
- Integrate in art, music, literature, history, science, and religion courses the contributions of Hispanic, Asian, Native and Black peoples.
- Publish materials on racism in the public media and on the Archdiocesan web site.
- Offer adults the opportunity to enter a tutor-mentor relationship with underprivileged and at-risk students.



Prayers of the Faithful for Racial Justice

For an end to the violence perpetuated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

For the wisdom to receive the stories and experiences of those different from ourselves and to respond with respect, let us pray to the Lord.

For the strength to teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully, and the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.

For our faith community, that we may celebrate and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our worship, our ministries, and our leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

For our faith community, that we may respond boldly to the Holy Spirit's call to act together to end violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our parish, that we may cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds, let us pray to the Lord.

For the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions- or even our silence- can impact our communities, let us pray to the Lord.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity, for those loved ones who are loved ones who are left behind to mourn, for the souls of those whose hearts are cold, Lord, hear our prayer.

For world leaders, that they may work to end the violence perpetrated by verbal attacks, deadly weapons, and cold indifference. May our nation and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our community, that we may receive the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language, or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

For parents and educators, that we may teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully and have the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.

For this faith community, that we hear the call of our leaders to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to act together to end violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that the Spirit of Wisdom may help them strive to work for equal education, suitable housing, and equal employment opportunities for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may be vigilant in our protection of those who are most vulnerable in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers

Prayer for Justice- Pope Benedict XVI

God grant that violence be overcome by the power of love, that opposition give way to reconciliation and that the desire to oppress be transformed into the desire for forgiveness, justice and peace...

May peace be in our hearts so that they are open to the action of God's grace...

May all members of the family community, especially children, the elderly, the weakest, feel the warmth of this feast, and may it extend subsequently to all the days in the year. Amen.

Prayer by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for Racial Justice (From Education for Justice- Christopher Smith, SJ)

God, our Father, Your church was born on a great miracle of unity. All of the people of the many nations, tribes, and places of Earth, who were fathered in Jerusalem were divided by the plurality of their different languages, customs, and experiences, when suddenly you brought coherence to their cacophony. At once, every woman and man understood one another: the gift and sign of your Holy Spirit, which had descended in tongues of fire that Pentecost day.

Although some wanted to restrict their fellowship, your spirit consistently widened the bounds of community. First to include Samaritans, then extending to include gentiles of every nation.

Propelled by your spirit, your apostles spread the good news to all of the world: that the kingdom of God is for all of us, belongs to all of us, belongs to all of us, and will only come about if we all make it so.

Sadly, our history is one of resistance to your spirit's call of inclusion, and this resistance continues to the present. We have polluted your church with racial, sociological, and political ideologies, at times. The disease of division and derision in the Church has caused great harm to our brothers and sisters of the different parts of the Body of Christ. For this, we ask you for mercy and healing. We ask you for help as we go forward, because the way to reconciliation is untrod and the path to healing is unknown.

Lord, pour out your spirit upon us today: the Spirit of union that brought understanding amidst difference to the first Christians on Pentecost. Help us to include, respect, and love one another. Give us the grace to listen. May our words and actions this day widen the boundaries of the Church a little more, that all may know that they have a place at your table because all are your beloved children. Amen.

This prayer was written for the 2021 Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice.

Shake Us From Our Slumber- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial justice, shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.

When out of fear we are frozen into inaction, give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.

When we try our best but say the wrong things, give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.

When the chaos of this dies down, give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.

When it becomes easier to point fingers outwards, help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.

God of truth, in your wisdom, enlighten us. God of hope in your kindness, heal us. Creator of all people, in your generosity, guide us.

Racism breaks your heart, break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord. Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever

two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

Prayer

God, you have created every person in Your image. Help us recognize this gift by rejecting fear and rejecting the sin of racism, so we can welcome and include all our brothers and sisters as members of the human family.

Guide us through the words of our Church leadership. Open our minds and our hearts to discern how we can live together in harmony and in unity.

Forgive us our sins, what we have done and what we have not done. Make us active bridge builders, to be witness to your word, to the diversity you have created and blessed. Amen. (From Education for Justice).

Prayer for Tolerance

Dear Lord, we who are divided, unloving, prejudices at times, inclined to misunderstanding, intolerant. Make us instead united, loving, open to learning, understanding and forgiving, tolerant. May your Spirit be present in us as you are in all peoples. Amen. (Education for Justice)

Deliver Us From Evil

We hear words of prejudice, fear, and anger in our communities. We see acts of discrimination and bloodshed in our streets. We cry out to you, O Lord, to deliver us from the evils of racism that cause great pain and anguish, dividing our nation.

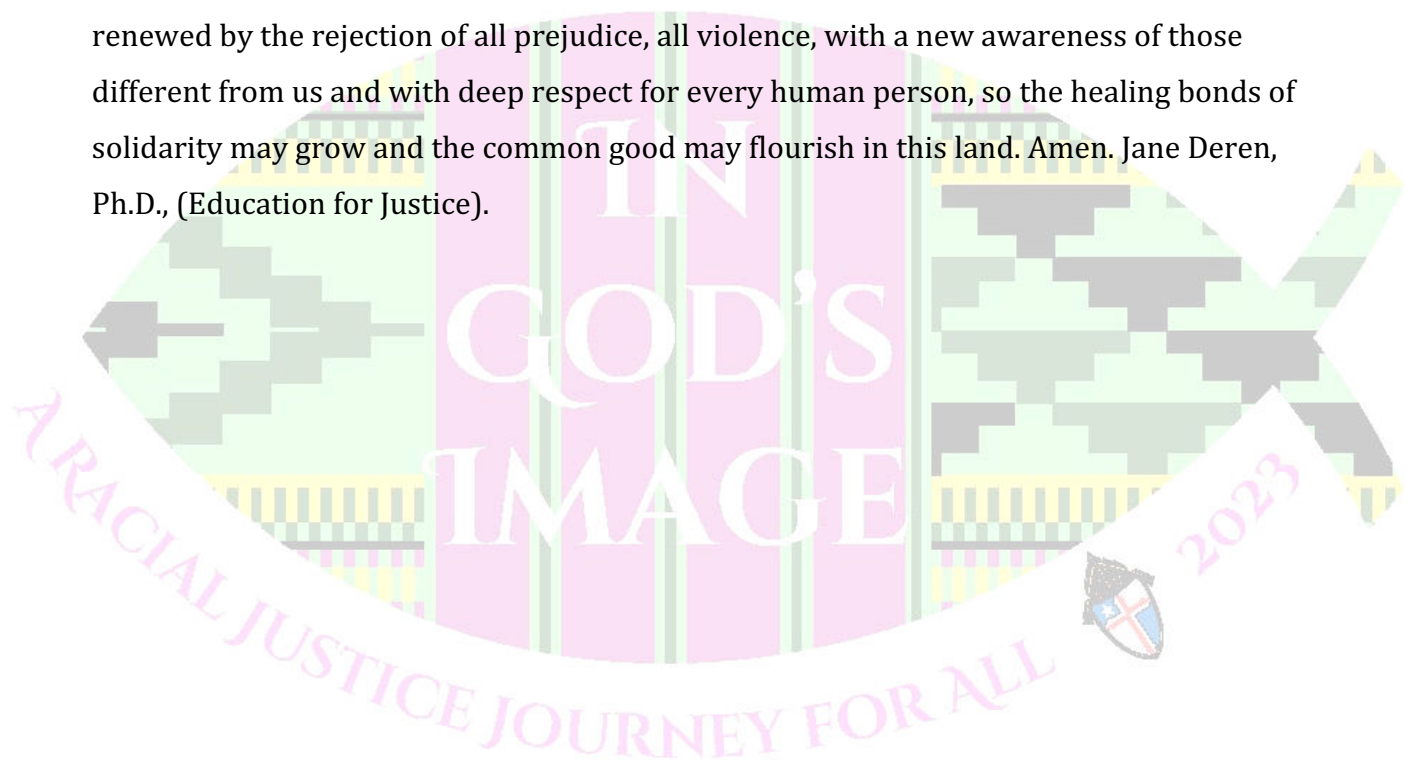
Deliver us from the evil of active racism, the outspoken language of hate, the visible acts of violence, the clear calls to divide and destroy. Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of passive racism, the attitudes and actions that allow racism to continue to exist because too many people say nothing and do nothing to stop active racism. Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of systemic racism, the biases that have long been a part of so many systems, in education, housing, health care, jobs, and in our court and penal structures, creating disadvantages that remain for generations. Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of cultural racism, from attitudes of superiority and privilege, from stereotyping and devaluing a culture even as we appropriate cultural expressions of those different from us without sensitivity or concern. Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

In your mercy, O Lord, deliver us from the evils of racism so that our communities can be renewed by the rejection of all prejudice, all violence, with a new awareness of those different from us and with deep respect for every human person, so the healing bonds of solidarity may grow and the common good may flourish in this land. Amen. Jane Deren, Ph.D., (Education for Justice).



Prayer Service

Adapted from Joseph Stoutzenberger, *Justice & Peace*, Dubuque, Iowa: Brown-ROA, 2000 from Education for Justice

Opening Prayer

Good and gracious God who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before You, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light. May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers. We place our hopes for racial harmony in You, our hopes for racial harmony in You, our loving God. Amen.

Reflection

Human creation by God “in God’s own image” confers upon every human person an eminent dignity; it also postulates the fundamental equality of all human beings. For the Church, this equality, which is rooted in being, acquires the dimension of an altogether special brotherhood and sisterhood through the Incarnation of the Son of God... In the Redemption effected by Jesus Christ the Church sees a further basis of the rights and duties of the human person. Hence every form of discrimination based on race... is absolutely unacceptable. (Pope John Paul II to the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, July 7, 1984) Education for Justice.

We are heirs of a religious teaching which proclaims that all men and women as children of God, are brothers and sisters. Every form of discrimination against individuals and groups- whether because of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, economic status, or national or cultural origin- is a serious injustice which has severely weakened our social fabric and deprived our country of the unique contributions of many of our citizens. (*Brothers and Sisters to Us*. U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Racism in Our Day, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 1979). Education for Justice.

Closing Prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society, and the world. Amen. (From Education for Justice).



A Litany for Those not Ready for Healing

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a band aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child... someone's beloved son.

Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.

Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together,

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead...

Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extra judicially every 28 hours.

Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.

Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground.

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Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

Uproot Racism- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world, and ourselves. This we pray.

To End Racism- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required, "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter ear

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We do this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Manifestations of Your Light- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Good and gracious God, who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before You, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of Your divine light.

May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers.

We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our Neighbor. May all peoples live in peace.

Dismantling Racism in My Family of God- Adapted by Debra Mooney, PhD from Pax Christi

Dear God,

In the effort to dismantle racism, I understand that I struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities- those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of our family are inferior and others superior.

Create in me a new mind and heart that will enable me to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give me the grace and strength to rid myself of racial stereotypes that oppress some in my family while providing entitlements to others.

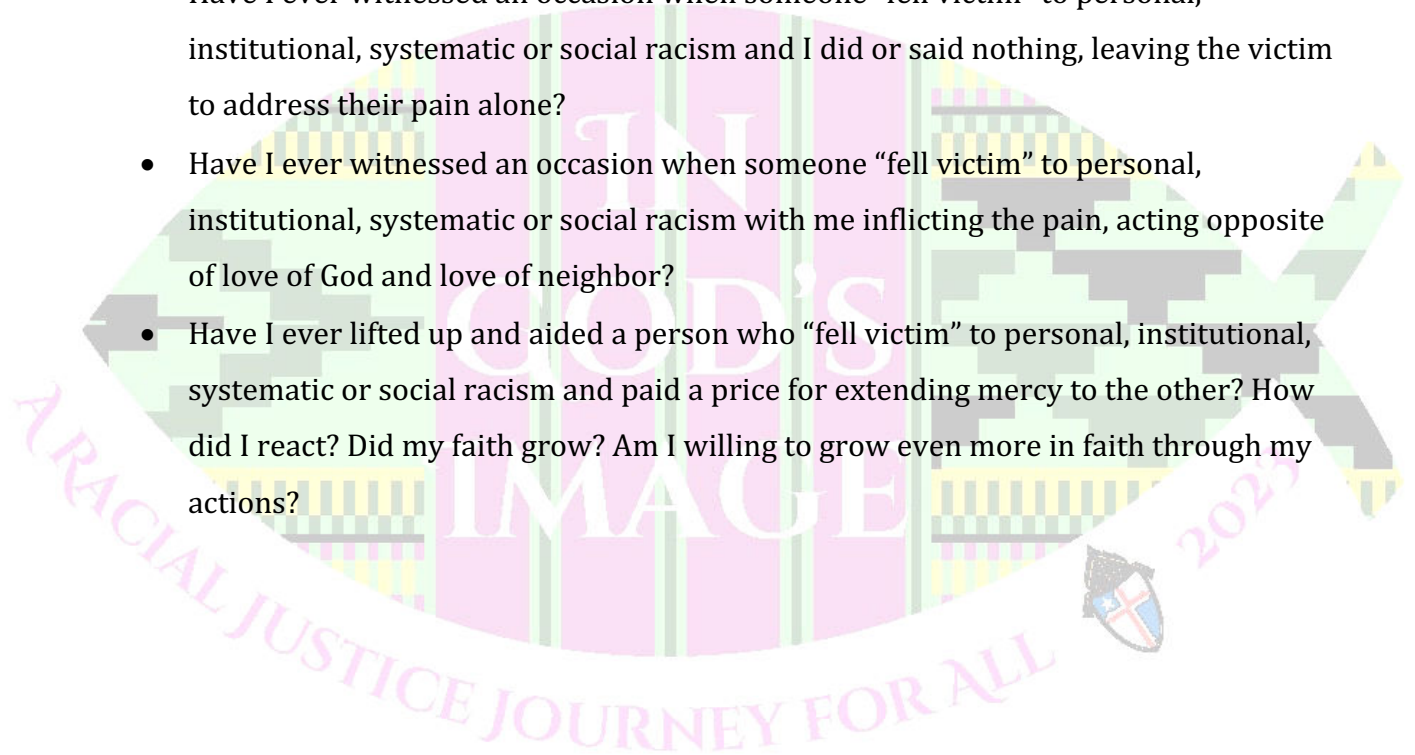
Help me to create a nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed people of color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Help me to heal your family making me one with you and empowered by Your Holy Spirit.

An Examine for Racial Justice- by To Go Forth – blog from the USCCB, Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development- inspired by Pope Francis.

- Have I fully loved God and fully loved my neighbor as myself?

- Have I caused pain to others by my actions or my words that offended by brother or my sister?
- Have I done enough to inform myself about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and contemporary manifestations? Have I opened my heart to see how unequal access to economic opportunity, jobs housing, and education on the basis of skin color, race, or ethnicity, has denied and continues to deny the equal dignity of others?
- Is there a root of racism within me that blurs my vision of who my neighbor is?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and I did or said nothing, leaving the victim to address their pain alone?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism with me inflicting the pain, acting opposite of love of God and love of neighbor?
- Have I ever lifted up and aided a person who “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and paid a price for extending mercy to the other? How did I react? Did my faith grow? Am I willing to grow even more in faith through my actions?



Black Catholic History Rosary

Praying the Rosary

1. Make the sign of the Cross and pray the Apostles' Creed
2. Pray 1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's and the Glory Be
3. Introduce the mystery. Pray 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's and the Glory Be
4. Repeat step 3 for each of the next 4 mysteries
5. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen and make the sign of the Cross

Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Glory Be (Doxology)

Glory be to the Father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy: Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Joyful Mysteries: Education/Social/Economic Justice

1. Dedicated to Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, OSP

Father God, we are so appreciative and grateful that you inspired Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, OSP to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence to provide educational, social and spiritual ministry to the people of God. Help us, like Mother Mary Lange, not to allow the inexpressible pain of prejudice and racial hatred weaken our resolve to do your will. Father we call upon your name to instill in your pilgrim people an attitude of gratitude as we do your will. Father we ask that our resolve be that of Mother Mary Lang, who said, "our sole will is to do the will of God!"

2. Dedicated to Venerable Henriette Delille, SSF

Father God, as always, it was your infinite wisdom and grace that inspired Venerable Henriette Delille to found the Holy Family Sisters to nurse the sick and elderly, care for the poor and instruct the unlearned. We pray that you lead us, as you fervently led Venerable Henriette Delille, for the love of Jesus to become a humble and devout servant to those who continued to face and be challenged by the many injustices of our time.

3. Dedicated to Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Father God, you empowered your faithful Servant of God Fr. August Tolton to overcome the adversities, prejudices and challenges of his time. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Servant of God Tolton was able to become a Catholic priest and serve the people of God in Quincy and Chicago, Illinois. Today we stand in the shadow of his ministry. Heavenly Father, grant that our lives be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Instill in us the spirit of confidence and hope, that we may serve your people with the charity and compassion that was so eloquently demonstrated by the Servant of God, Father Augustus Tolton.

5. Dedicate to Daniel Rudd

Father God, time and time again you send saintly prophets to guide and lead your people. Today, we, your faithful stand in total appreciation and thanksgiving for the gifts and talents of our dear brother and friend, Daniel Rudd. It was through your precious providence that you inspired Daniel Rudd to establish a newspaper to inform your people about their God-given dignity and to call for the first National Black Catholic Congress. We beseech you, heavenly Father, to grant that one day Daniel Rudd be raised to the highest honors of the altar and that the National Black Catholic Congress continue its mission to the Catholic Church universal.

Luminous Mysteries: 50th Anniversaries of Civil Rights Causes

1. Dedicated to the March on Washington

Father God, the March on Washington served as the largest gathering for human rights, more specifically, civil and economic rights for African Americans. Today, as we recall the mighty and historical "I Have A Dream Speech" by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we ask that you continue to have your church speak out against our current injustices because "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom to boldly proclaim the truth and nothing but the truth in our families, churches, schools, communities and neighborhoods.

2. Dedicated to the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Father God, you keep on opening doors for your faithful people. We know that because the March on Washington was broadcast all over this world, this March began to change the hearts of our political and spiritual leaders in the United States. Our prayer today Lord, is to persistently seek your divine intervention as we continue to fight for equal rights and justice for all who are disenfranchised in our communities locally, nationally and internationally.

3. Dedicated to the March from Selma to Montgomery “Bloody Sunday”

Father God, we your faithful sons and daughters call upon your name as we remember the trials and tribulations that occurred during the Selma to Montgomery March. Today, as we continue to march for voting rights, especially for those who have been disenfranchised due to their ethnicity or color, we implore your Holy Spirit to descend upon our political leaders and instill to them a sense of fairness to all regardless, of their color, creed or origin. Lord, may your Spirit continue to guide us to do all we can in the way that we can to make sure no one’s voting rights is disrupted.

4. Dedicated to the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Lord, we first want to thank you for our civil rights leaders, both spiritual and political, who, in many cases, gave their lives to that others may gain the right to vote. Lord, we ask that you forgive all those who persecuted and killed your sons and daughters. We again ask the Holy Spirit to assist in guiding our Congress and Supreme Court restore the laws that gave countless numbers of people the right to vote. Lord we further seek your guidance to help us boldly and strongly encourage our church leaders to prophetically proclaim your Gospel as they speak to and for justice for all people.

5. Dedicated to the Religious Orders of Men and Women Who Risked Their Lives in the Struggle for Civil Rights

Heavenly Father, we your sons and daughters are grateful that many religious orders of men and women joined the civil rights marches to demonstrate their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Help your pilgrim Church here on earth to further her witness to the Gospel by being a voice for the voiceless and giving hope to the hopeless. Lord, create in your people a sense of responsibility to continue their journey for civil and human rights.

Sorrowful Mysteries: Historical Documents from Black Catholics

1. In Thanksgiving for “Brothers and Sisters to Us”

Lord, our experiences tell us that the evil of racism endures in our Church and in our world. As we continue to champion the cause of eradicating the sin of racism. Create in us an attitude of gratitude for your grace and mercy. We call on you today Lord, to stamp out all

forms of racism because you know that they are unjust and unworthy of our Church and country. We recall the boldness of Bishop Harold Perry, SVD, who challenged his brother bishops to address the overt and covert stains of racism that prevent Black Catholic from fully participating in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Lord, help our Church leaders to intensify their efforts to make sure that the poor and racial minorities do not bear the heaviest burden of any economic legislation that our political leaders put forth. Lord we also call upon you to send your Holy Spirit to wipe out any institutional racism that attempts to reassert itself in our Church.

2. In Thanksgiving for “What We Have Seen and Heard”

Father, you enable the Black Bishops of the United States to express the insights, challenges and concerns of Black Catholics to the Catholic Church in the United States. Their scholarship invited the Church to become one with their African American brothers and sisters. As we give thanks to God for “What We Have Seen and Heard,” let us not forget that we the heirs of this letter must continue our mission to be about God’s business of service to our brothers and sisters. Lord, we also pray for the countless number of African American men and women who attempted to share their gifts in religious life in years past. May their yearning to share their indigenous leadership inspire young African Americans to consider serving as priests, vowed religious, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers in our beloved Church.

3. In Memory of “Rise N Shine”

Heavenly Father, our Black scholars, guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote an outstanding document about the education of Black children who are enrolled in our Catholic schools. We ask you Lord, to inspire our bishops and parishes to renew their commitment to Catholic education. Help them find the resources needed to keep Catholic schools open and available not only to those who can afford it but also to the marginalized and poor. Lord, we call upon you now to revive in Catholics a sense of urgency to make affordable Catholic education available in our cities and rural communities. We yearn for your Holy Spirit to encourage our Catholic bishops to reopen Catholic schools, particularly in urban and rural areas, with all deliberate speed. Lord we ask that you join in calling forth those in our

Catholic and civic communities who are able to provide viable streams of needed monies to provide quality and affordable Catholic education for our children and livable wages for our employees.

4. In Thanksgiving for “Lead Me Guide Me!” the Black Catholic Hymnal

Lord, we have so much to thank you for. We thank you for sending African American men and women who gave their time, talent and treasure to write and produce the hymnal “Lead Me Guide Me.” There is a saying in the African American Catholic community that says “when you sing... you pray twice!” Lord, we beseech you to help us to spread the word that African American Catholics’ form of worship is to be accepted by our Catholic Church, not as a parochial entity but a totally legitimate form of worship because we, African American Catholics also have their own unique contribution to make to the Church. Lord, encourage African Americans to sing, to praise and to worship you more boldly for your goodness. Help us to glorify you for what you have done, what you are doing and what you will do for our people.

5. In Thanksgiving for the Office of Cultural Diversity in the Catholic Church at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Lord, we are grateful that our Catholic bishops of the United States recognize the need for an office to address the needs of the many ethnic communities of Catholics in the U.S. Lord, give this office wisdom to keep on telling the stories of all God’s children. Help this office to continue to spread that word that the Catholic Church is open to all and that the Catholic Church extends its hand of welcome to all who desire to join. We thank you Lord, for allowing our Church to address her historical challenges as you open our eyes to new possibilities.

Glorious Mysteries: The Black Catholic Response

1. Founding of the Black Clergy Caucus

Dear God, you have always sent messengers to care for your people and to provide sound counsel. In 1968 during the Civil Rights Movement, Black Catholic priests decided to birth the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus to support the spiritual, theological, educational,

and ministerial growth of its members. Today Lord, we pray that you send more men to the priesthood, to the brotherhood and to the diaconate so that they can continue to stand on the shoulders of their founding fathers providing the necessary prophetic pastoral care to your sons and daughters as they boldly and without shame proclaim your Gospel.

2. Founding of the National Black Sisters' Conference

Heavenly Father, your wonderful grace divine led to the establishment of the National Black Sisters' Conference in August 1968. We pray that you Lord, continue to bless the National Black Sisters' Conference as they strive to provide ongoing communication and dialogue that focuses on the education and support of African American women religious. Lord Jesus, may your precious Holy Spirit inspire African American women to consider a vocation of service as women religious in our Catholic Church.

3. Founding of the National Black Seminarians Association

Lord, your infinite wisdom led to the founding of the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association to contribute to the well-being of candidates for priesthood and religious life, with an emphasis on Black America, African, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Latino candidates preparing to serve the Church in the United States and its territories. Lord, help these young men to withstand all forms of temptation so that they can serve your Church as priests. Send your Holy Spirit to counsel them and guide them on their priestly journey.

4. Founding of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators

Lord as you continued to provide prophetic messengers for your African American sons and daughters, the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators was founded to answer the call of service in our offices of Black ministry in our archdioceses and dioceses. Father God, today we ask you to help us pursue justice for our people wherever injustice and racial hatred arises in their local Catholic communities. Lord, empower the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators to boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus as they labor in your vineyard as lay ecclesial ministers.

5. Founding of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies of Xavier University in Louisiana

Lord, in 1980 the Black community within the Catholic Church took a bold step in opening the doors of educational excellence by founding the Institute for Black Catholic Studies to provide academic and pastoral training for those who serve your people in the African American Catholic Community. Lord, we ask your continued blessings for the ongoing success of the Institute. May it continue to uplift the gifts and talents of its students by helping them become contributing and participatory members of their parishes and of society.

@ by Dr. Kirk P. Gaddy, July 4, 2014



Prayer for Unity

Triune God, within your own life there is mutuality, equality, and unity in diversity.

Though we are made in your image, we confess that we distort the triune life.

Instead of seeking mutual welfare and the common good, we seek our own gain.

Instead of living in equality, justice, and respect, we construct systems that are unjust.

We devise ways to elevate ourselves over others, and disrespectful thoughts, words, and actions still surface in us.

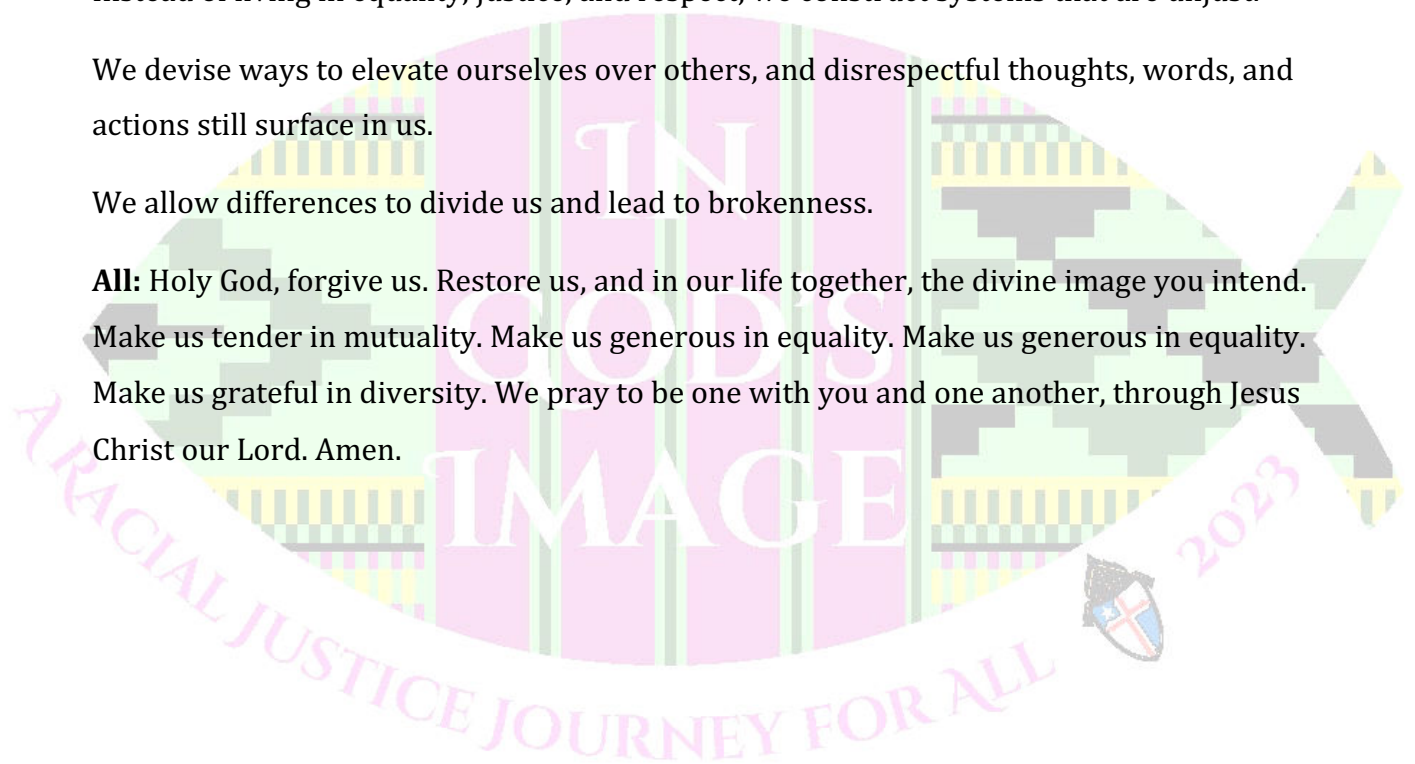
We allow differences to divide us and lead to brokenness.

All: Holy God, forgive us. Restore us, and in our life together, the divine image you intend.

Make us tender in mutuality. Make us generous in equality. Make us generous in equality.

Make us grateful in diversity. We pray to be one with you and one another, through Jesus

Christ our Lord. Amen.



A Prayer Service for Racial Healing in Our Land

USCCB 2018

Introduction

“Racism has rightly been called America’s original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts and attitudes of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn, and combat, the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism and racism has become especially urgent at this time. Our efforts must be constantly led and accompanied by prayer- but they must also include concrete action.” People of faith call on the Divine Physician, Christ the Lord, to heal the wounds of racism throughout our land.

Opening Prayer

Wake Me Up Lord

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me. Keep watch over my heart Lord, and remove from me any barriers to your grace, that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters. Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give services of justice and peace. Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory. And finally, remind us Lord that you said, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 10: 25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he

saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, "Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back." Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Pastoral Reflection

As we heard in the Gospel reading, the question is posed, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus is ready, answering with a parable. Jesus often used parables to shed light, bring new insights, and provoke a change in the hearts of listeners. We hear that someone is robbed, beaten and injured. Two walked by, ignoring the injured man, but a third came to the man's aid, caring for his wounds and securing him safe lodging. He was the good neighbor. He was acting like Jesus, doing what God required.

Keeping this in mind, consider the scenario we are witnessing today as racism persists in our communities and in our churches. Too many walk by the victims of racism without looking deeply at their wounds or the pain inflicted on them. Many of these wounds have festered over centuries. Today's continuing disparities in education, housing, employment, economic well-being, and leadership are not disconnected from our country's shameful history of slavery and systemic racism. Any act of racism injures the perpetrator and the victim, threatening the dignity of both. The failure to act to end systemic racism, which is often animated in our laws, policies, and structures, hurts those who are victimized and denies all of us the opportunity to benefit from the gifts of diversity.

Jesus' parable calls us to our obligations as Christians, to be a good neighbor: the one who stops and helps the injured; the one who does not hesitate to accept the responsibility of healing.

The signs of this time are asking us to wake up, to stand up and to speak up when we see racism. This is how we love our neighbor as ourselves. This is how we act like Jesus. This is how we do justice and love goodness (Micah 6:8). This is how we make safe lodging for all. This is how we begin the healing from racism in our land, writing a new parable of racial justice for this time.

The U.S. bishops teach: “Racism is a sin: a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family, and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father” (*Brothers and Sisters to Us: U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Racism in Our Day*, 1979). In “The Challenge of Racism Today,” Cardinal Wuerl’s pastoral letter to the Church in Washington, he writes: “To address racism, we need to recognize two things: that it exists in a variety of forms, some more subtle and others more obvious and that there is something we can do about it. We must confront the issue with the conviction that in some personal ways we can help to resolve it.”

The sin of racism is evil and needs to be wiped out. Too many times, miseducation has blocked the path to racial healing. Too many times, apathy has hindered the road to racial healing. People of faith are called to attend to the wounds of racism with prayer and action—to move out of pain to healing by transforming systems and structures that perpetuate injustice. As Cardinal Wuerl said, “we must recognize that we can do something about racism.”

Examination of Conscience: A Look at Myself in the Mirror

Conscience is the “core and sanctuary” within us where we are alone with God and hear his call to “love good and avoid evil” and “do this, shun that.” Let us examine our conscience in light of the sin of racism, asking ourselves:

- 1. Have I fully loved God and fully loved my neighbor as myself?**
- 2. Have I caused pain to others by my actions or my words that offended my brother or my sister?**

3. **Have I done enough to inform myself about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and contemporary manifestations? Have I opened my heart to see how unequal access to economic opportunity, jobs, housing, and education on the basis of skin color, race, or ethnicity, has denied and continues to deny the equal dignity of others?**
4. **Is there a root of racism within me that blurs my vision of who my neighbor is?**
5. **Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systemic or social racism and I did or said nothing, leaving the victim to address their pain alone?**
6. **Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systemic or social racism with me inflicting the pain, acting opposite of love of God and love of neighbor?**
7. **Have I ever lifted up and aided a person who “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systemic or social racism and paid a price for extending mercy to the other? How did I react? Did my faith grow? Am I willing to grow even more in faith through my actions?**

I recognize that racism manifests in my own individual thought, attitudes, actions, and inactions. It also manifests in social structures and unjust systems that perpetuate centuries of racial injustice. For my individual actions and my participation in unjust structures, I seek forgiveness and move towards reconciliation. I look into my heart and ask for the will and the strength to help contribute to the healing of racism in my time.

Act of Contrition

Let us pray the Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen (Or: “to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life).

I Seek Forgiveness and Reconciliation to Act Justly

It is written in Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Pope Francis reminds us that the Lord "calls each of us by name: he knows us by name; he looks at us; he waits for us; he forgives us; he is patient with us."

Receiving God's grace and forgiveness requires a response. Pope Francis encourages the believer: "Whoever experiences Divine Mercy is impelled to be an architect of mercy among the least and the poor." Now let us do what God requires: "Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Closing Prayer

God of Heaven and Earth, you created the one human family and endowed each person with great dignity. Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism. Grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civil institutions. Fill our hearts with love for you and your neighbor so that we may work with you in healing our land from racial injustice. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

We have prayed and now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet to action.

Prayer on International Day of Tolerance

"But any kind of social or cultural discrimination in basic personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design."- Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, #29).

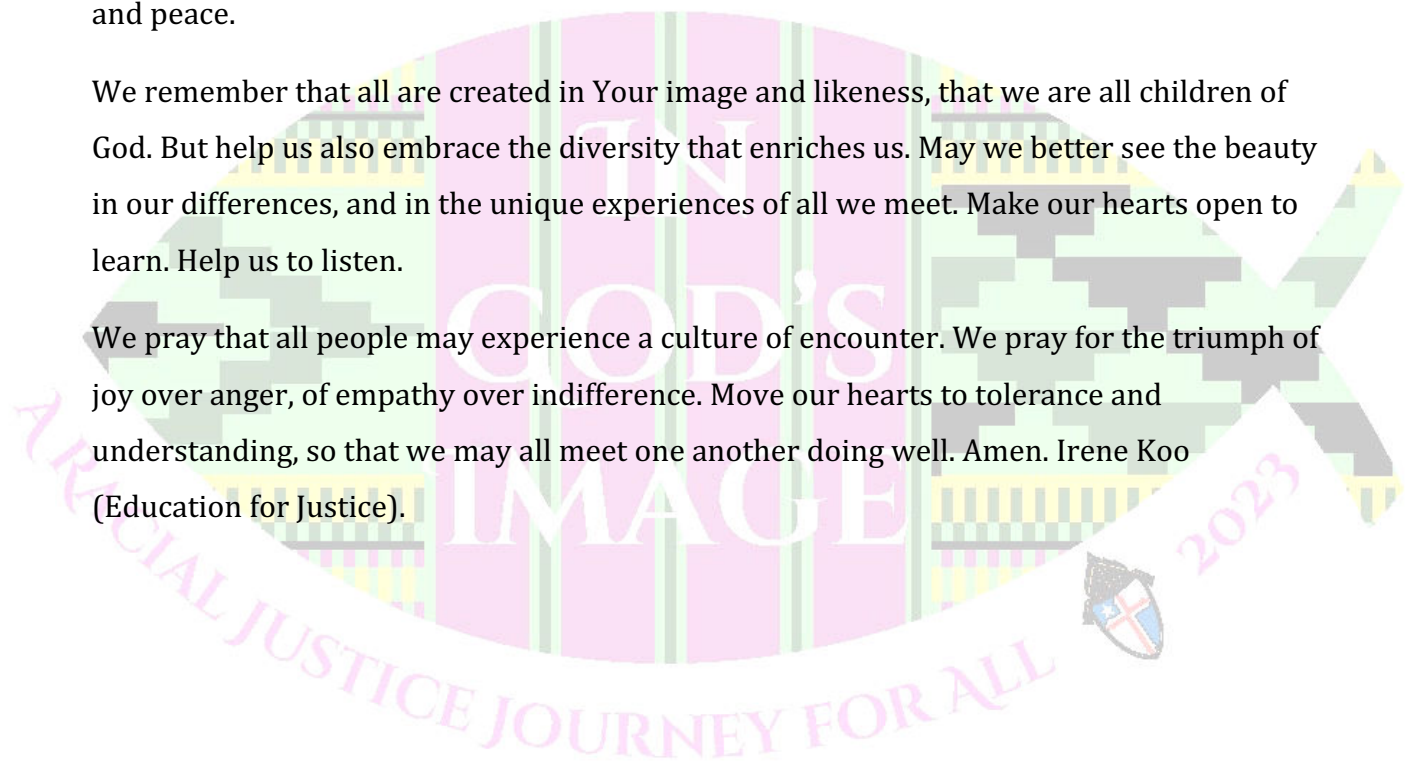
In a sermon delivered in 2013, Pope Francis stated, "The Lord created us in His image and likeness, and we are the image of the Lord... all of us have this commandment at heart: do good and do not do evil.... The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics... 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good!" We are

thus challenged by Pope Francis to build a culture of encounter and embrace one another through the universal commandment of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. The United Nations' International Day for Tolerance, observed each year on November 16, seeks to strengthen the values of tolerance, respect, dialogue, and cooperation among different cultures and people throughout the world.

Dear Lord, in an era of division and unrest in countries and communities throughout the world, help us to come together. Help us to repair that which has been broken by violence, discrimination, and hate. Help us to build trust rather than walls. Help us to seek solidarity and peace.

We remember that all are created in Your image and likeness, that we are all children of God. But help us also embrace the diversity that enriches us. May we better see the beauty in our differences, and in the unique experiences of all we meet. Make our hearts open to learn. Help us to listen.

We pray that all people may experience a culture of encounter. We pray for the triumph of joy over anger, of empathy over indifference. Move our hearts to tolerance and understanding, so that we may all meet one another doing well. Amen. Irene Koo (Education for Justice).



Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

Catholic Charities USA

www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and peace, you created us in your image, forming one human family. You love all your children without discrimination, and invite us to love each of our neighbors as ourselves. In hope, we lift up to you the healing tensions and racism that plague our nation, and pray for increasing harmony and peace within our communities, and in our hearts. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85:9-14

R. *The Lord speaks of peace to his people.*

I will listen for what God, the Lord, has to say; surely he will speak of peace to his people and to his faithful. May they not turn to foolishness! Near indeed is his salvation for those who fear him; glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Love and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss. Truth will spring from the earth; justice will look down from heaven. **R.**

Yes, the Lord will grant his bounty; our land will yield its produce. Justice will march before him, and make a way for his footsteps. **R.**

Reading from Scripture

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And

over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Reflection

An individual or group reflection on the scripture readings or the theme of peace in our communities may take place here.

Prayers of the Faithful

God is the author of peace, and blesses all those who work for peace. Let us now lift up prayers for peace, saying: "Author of Peace, hear our prayer."

For an end to the violence perpetuated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

For healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For the protection of all police and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety; for fair and just policing that will promote peace and wellbeing in all our neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions- or even our silence- can impact our communities, let us pray to the Lord.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lament for Racial Injustice

Stations of the Cross based on the Book of Lamentations

From the Archdiocese of Chicago Anti-Racism Team

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Psalm 35: 7-9, 11-12

For without cause they set their snare for me, without cause they dug a pit against my life. Let ruin come upon them unawares, and let the snare they have set catch them; into the pit they have dug let them fall. But I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful because of his salvation. Unjust witnesses have risen up; things I knew not of, they lay to my charge. They have repaid me evil for good, bringing bereavement to my soul.

Let us pray... God of history, for over 500 years we have witnessed the degradation of people of color for the purposes of social and economic gain. Their false condemnation becomes the real condemnation of those of us who continue to benefit from their oppression. Through your Son Jesus, forgive us for our complicity in the sins of our ancestors, for only you can guide us toward reconciliation and restoration of the one race, the human race. Amen.

Second Station: Jesus is given his cross

Psalm 109:1-5

O God, whom I praise, be not silent, for they have opened wicked and treacherous mouths against me. They have spoken to me with lying tongues, and with words of hatred they have encompassed me and attacked me without cause. In return for my love they slandered me, but I prayed. They repaid me evil for good and hatred for my love.

Let us pray... God of freedom, Lord of mercy, we decry our nation's history of slavery, yet we struggle under the burden of institutional racism. The sweat and hearts of those who bore the inhumane burden of slavery continues to wash over each generation. Lord Jesus, continue to allow the tears, the sweat, to flow over us, to cleanse us of our collective enslavement to the sin of racism. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

Psalm 38: 14-15, 18-19

But I am like a deaf man, hearing not, like a dumb man who opens not his mouth. I am becoming like a man who neither hears nor has in his mouth a retort. For I am very near to falling and my grief is with me always. Indeed, I acknowledge my guilt. I grieve over my sins.

Let us pray... All knowing God, God who knows the hearts of all, we stand in horror at the images of lurching that have marked so much of the sad history of our nation. The silent assent of so many who stood by still haunts us even now. Lord God, never allow us to be silent in the face of hatred and prejudice against people of color again. Give us continued courage to raise our voices to lift up all people to claim their God-given dignity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his Mother

Psalm 77:4-6

When I remember God, I moan; when I ponder, my spirit grows faint. You keep my eyes watchful; I am troubled and cannot speak. I consider the days of old; the years long past.

Let us pray... Mother God, God of compassion, we know that you weep at the injustice done by those with power and privilege, done at times in your name, to people of color. Yet they continue to come to you, seek your embrace, offer their gifts, long for full stature and recognition within your body, the Church. Guide us, teach us, nurture us all, that as a holy people we may honor the vision of Your son 'that all may be one.' We ask this through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene carries the cross

Psalm 81:7-9

Unfamiliar speech I hear: I relieved his shoulder of the burden; his hands were freed from the basket and in distress you called and I rescued you. Unseen, I answered you in thunder; hear, my people, and I will admonish you.

Let us pray... God of the prophets, over the years there have been many good people who have accompanied our brothers and sisters of color on their journey to freedom; there are many more today who stand with them to dismantle racism in our burden of hatred and revile from the fearful and ignorant. Lord God, fortify us in our resolve to free every brother and sister, white, black, brown, yellow, and red, from the chains of racism, persevering as you did, trusting in the immortality of spirit bonded in relationship to the God of unity and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Psalm 40: 12-13

Withhold not, O Lord, your compassion from me; may your kindness and your truth ever preserve me. For all about me are evils beyond reckoning; my sins so overcome me that I cannot see; they are more numerous than the hairs on my head, and my heart fails me.

Let us pray... God of freedom, who seeks to overcome our every fear, free us from the wounds of racism that all of us have internalized. Help us to extend forgiveness when sincerely offered, invite conversion and forgiveness where greatly needed, that together we might help one another to proudly reveal the unique expression of the face of God that lies within each one of us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

Psalm 56:2-5

Have pity on me, O God, for men trample upon me, all the day they press their attack against me. My adversaries trample upon me all the day, yes, many fight against me. O Most High, when I begin to fear, in you I will trust. In God, in whose promise I glorify, in God I trust without fear; what can flesh do against me?

Let us pray... God of welcome and inclusion, for so many years our parishes have struggled to welcome the stranger- the African American, the Latino, the Filipino, the Chinese and others. What harm we have done, and continue to do, by not welcoming and including everyone's gifts in offering praise and service to You, the Creator of us all. Increase our desire for unity. Help us to welcome the cultural and ethnic gifts of everyone, to lift them up in gratitude, and to feed from the bounty of our collective, rich diversity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the daughters of Jerusalem

Lamentations 2:18-19

Cry out to the Lord; moan, O daughter Zion! Let your tears flow like a torrent day and night; Let there be no respite for you, no repose for your eyes. Rise up shrill in the night, at the beginning of every watch; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord; lift up your hands to him for the lives of your little ones [who faint from hunger at the corner of every street].

Let us pray... God who is mother to us all: we know that you weep at the loss of so many young lives, predominantly young men of color, victims of an unjust system that imprisons them behind bars of poor education and unjust and racially biased court systems. Lord Jesus, remove the blindness of stereotypes and apathy, open our minds, our hearts, that we may accompany all young men and women of color through the hardships of this life into new life and new possibilities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time

Lamentations 3:16-18

He had broken my teeth with gravel, pressed my face in the dust, my soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hope for from the Lord.

Let us pray... God of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and many chances: In so many ways our society has failed our families of color. As we continue to shake our heads at the immensity of the problem, remind us that you are greater than every challenge, and that with you we can accompany

those who are beaten down by the forces of racism and poverty to rise up together on the journey through death to resurrection for our families and communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Lamentations 3:1-4a; 5-7

I am a man who knows affliction from the rod of his anger, one whom he has led and forced to walk in darkness, not in the light; against me alone he brings back his hand again and again all the day. He has worn away my flesh and my skin, he has best me roundabout with poverty and weariness; he has left me to dwell in the dark like those long dead. He has hemmed me in with no escape and weighted me down with chains.

Let us pray... God of life, through Your Son Jesus you offer us the fullness of life, yet so often we do not feel valued, not given a chance, shackled and stripped by the forces of racism and prejudice imbedded in our society. Gracious God, help us all to lift our voices, crying out and working for justice, for all who seek to develop and offer their God-given gifts in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eleventh Station: Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Lamentations 3:11-15

He deranged my ways, set me astray, left me desolate. He bent his bow; and set me up as the target for his arrow. He pierces my sides with shafts from his quiver. I have become the laughingstock for all nations, their taunt all day long; He has sated me with bitter food, made me drink my fill of wormwood.

Let us pray... "I thirst!" All nourishing God, God who satisfies our every need, your Son's words from the cross echo across the 500 years of crucifixion that racism imposes on us all. "We thirst!" Pour out your grace upon us, that we may work together to satisfy the thirst of those who hunger for equality, for a good education and jobs, for the recognition and respect due all of your sons and daughters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Psalm 11:15-19

I am like water poured out; all my bones are racked. My heart has become like wax melting away within my bosom. My throat is dried up like baked clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws; to the dust of death you have brought me down. Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; they have pierced my hands and feet; I can count all my bones. They look on and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for vesture they cast lots.

Let us pray... Father God, source of life and love, all too often we have participated, sometimes knowingly, often unknowingly, in the death of the human spirit of so many people of color. Help us center ourselves in the love between you and your Son Jesus. Anchored there we can face the crosses of this life, trusting that our spirits will never die. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus' body is removed from the cross

Psalm 22:7-12

But I am a worm, not a man; the scorn of men, despised by the people. All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads; "He relied on the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, if he loves him." You have been my guide since I was first formed, my security at my mother's breast. To you I was committed at birth; from my mother's womb you are my God. Be not far from me, for I am in distress; be near, for I have no one to help me.

Let us pray... God of tender care and compassion, so often throughout history we have seen the hopes and dreams of the African American, the immigrant, the Native American, devastated by the sins of those with power and privilege. Remove all of us from the crosses that continue to hinder you from bringing resurrection into the lives of the oppressed, the disenfranchised, the poor, the majority of whom are people of color. Hold us in your tender embrace, drawing strength, new life and new resolve to bring your healing power to bear on the injustice of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Psalm 88:6-9

My couch is among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no longer and who are cut off from your care. You have plunged me into the bottom of the pit into the dark abyss. Upon me your wrath lies heavy, and with all your billows you overwhelm me. You have taken my friends away from me; you have made me an abomination to them; I am imprisoned, and I cannot escape.

Let us pray... Compassionate and caring God, God who has inscribed the names of all the faithful in heaven. On the cross your Son Jesus took upon himself the sins of the world, absorbing all of the pain and suffering of eternity, and responding with forgiveness. May we, like Jesus, commend our hopes, our dreams, our spirits to you. May we work together to eradicate the forces of racism that continue the economic, social physical and spiritual crucifixion of our brothers and sisters of color, forces that ultimately hurt us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lamentations 3:21-26 (Read after the 14th station showing lamentations giving way to hope)

But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope; the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, God's mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore I will hope in God. Good is the Lord to one who waits for God, to the soul that seeks God; it is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

Closing Prayer (All)

Lord, our God, you created the human being, man and women, in your image and likeness, and you willed the diversity of peoples within the unity of the human family. At times, however, the equality of your sons and daughters has not been acknowledged, and Christians have been guilty of attitudes of rejection and exclusion, consenting to acts of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic difference. Forgive us and grant us the grace

to heal the wounds still present your community on account of sin, so that we will all feel ourselves to be your sons and daughters. (St. Pope John Paul II) ***Please leave in silence.***

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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 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.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), 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 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.

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 Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), 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 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.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), 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 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.

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 Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), 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 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.

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 Fr. Augustus Tolton, Pray for us.

Venerable Zeinab Alif (Maria Giuseppina Benvenuti), 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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A Catholic Approach

Black Catholic History Month Lunch and Learn

November 8, 2022

Embracing people from all walks of life begins with understanding what diversity, equity and inclusion is, so we can truly unite to change the systems in play that prevent real change. In the context of racial disparity, diversity, equity and inclusion are integral in developing systems

that evenly distribute resources to historically marginalized and underserved groups by taking each person's unique set of circumstances into account.

Common Definitions

Diversity- The presence of different and multiple characteristics that make up individual and collective identities, including race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, language, and physical ability.

Diversity is important when considering how historically underrepresented groups have been barred from participating in every aspect of society. It is important to allow everyone a seat at the table to voice their concerns and provide solutions to issues they are directly affected by. It is important to do this on the front end and not as an after-thought.

Equity- The process of identifying and removing the barriers that create disparities in the access to resources and means, and the achievement of fair treatment and equal opportunities to thrive.

Equity acknowledges the systems that have kept marginalized groups from political, social, cultural and economic spheres of influence, often to the downfall of specific groups of people. Equity is commonly mistaken for the term equality, but the two have different meanings. Equality gives everyone the same number of benefits, regardless of their individual privileges, while equity considers everyone's starting point.

Inclusion- Is creating environments in which any individual or group can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued to participate fully.

Inclusion creates a welcoming atmosphere where all people, regardless of race, gender of sexuality, can feel welcomed and are able to actively participate in society without any threats of harm or intimidation. By celebrating and accepting people's differences, we create a more empathetic world.

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic social teaching is a rich treasure about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of the modern society. Scripturally based, modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, the use of the death penalty and racism. We believe that every person is precious because we are made in the image and likeness of God. People are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society- in economics and politics, in law and policy- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities- to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:32-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve the people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected- the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demand that we promote peace in world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

