

HOSPITALITY AND

Journeying from Racism

Despite many promising strides made in our country, racism still afflicts our nation. We've seen the nationwide protests related to the killing of George Floyd as well as other unarmed black men and women. There has been a rise in anti-Asian violence. As the Church seeks to end the evil of racism, we must conduct our own examination of conscience about the issues of racism within our own Catholic institutions. Addressing racism within our own Catholic community is not easy.



Faith in the one God, Creator and Redeemer of all men and women made in his image and likeness, compels the absolute and necessary negation of any racist ideas and behaviors. "We cannot truly pray to God the Father of all if we treat any people in other than brotherly fashion, for all men are created in God's image."

The Church and Racism: Towards a More Fraternal Society, Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, 1988, #19

REFLECT

But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. [1 John 2:11](#)

At this moment in the history of the Diocese of Sacramento, it is right and just for us to purify ourselves of the sin of racism so that we may more fully unite ourselves with Christ who 'broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh.' (Eph. 2:14) *It is Right and Just: Journeying from Racism to Communion in Christ, Bishop Jaime Soto*

Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. *USCCB, Open Wide Our Hearts*

As Christians, we are called to listen and know the stories of our brothers and sisters. We must create opportunities to hear, with open hearts, the tragic stories that are deeply imprinted on the lives of our brothers and sisters, if we are to be moved to empathy to promote justice. *USCCB, Open Wide Our Hearts*

Let the Church proclaim to all that the sin of racism defiles the image of God and degrades the sacred dignity of humankind which has been revealed by the mystery of the Incarnation. Let all know that it is a terrible sin that mocks the cross of Christ and ridicules the Incarnation. For the brother and sister of our Brother Jesus Christ are brother and sister to us. *USCCB, Brothers and Sisters to Us, 1979*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Diocese of Sacramento is a community of "many"; composed of many ethnic groups, cultures and races, from a variety of backgrounds, with a multitude of gifts and abilities. What are the attitudes and practices that divide our community? How do we overcome racial and ethnic misperceptions and fears within the body of Christ?
2. "As Christians, we are called to listen and know the stories of our brothers." How do we practice listening and learning each other's stories in our parish community?
3. How do we create a more welcoming Catholic community? How do we foster more dialogue and participation in our parish? How do we reach out into our neighborhoods to welcome all God's children?