

Response to Racism in the Diocese of Davenport

This is a compilation of materials that provides some background on what the chancery, parishes and schools have been working on in the ongoing effort to confront racism in our culture and communities.

Shortly after becoming Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport, Bishop Zinkula wrote a letter on racism. The Catholic Messenger also published a story about the impact of racism on Bishop Zinkula's family of origin:

- <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2017/8/TRZ%20Letter%20on%20Racism%200817.pdf>
- <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2018/11/racism-hits-home-for-bishops-family/>

The Bishop has been meeting with chancery staff, the Presbyteral Council, and the Diocesan Pastoral Council to explore ways to counter racism. The Diocesan Office of Social Action has been addressing this issue for many years. Social Action staff are active members of community organizations that confront racism, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and One Human Family QCA. A chancery group has been discussing the Diocese's response to racism. The group highlighted "The Faith Awakens" podcast from St. Ambrose University, a series by the Catholic Messenger, resources being used by diocesan parishes and Catholic schools, and other information. The directors of chancery departments have been discussing racism at their meetings.

Additional resources the diocese provides:

- <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/racism>

Position statements on racism from the four bishops of Iowa:

- <https://iowacatholicconference.org/8722-2/>

Statements and resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), including this resource being read and discussed by clergy and laity in the Diocese:

- <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>

Teaching for youth and adults promoted by the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation and the Office of Liturgy:

- <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/ff-racial-justice>
- <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/liturgy>

Regarding a recent incident at Assumption High School in Davenport, see the attached responses from AHS and Bishop Zinkula, and this story in the Catholic Messenger:

- <https://www.catholicmessenger.net/2020/11/remorse-over-assumption-students-racist-tiktok-video/>

Hopefully this gives you some idea of the work being done by the Diocese to address the issue of racism.