



BE A VOICE FOR LIFE & HUMAN DIGNITY

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR RACIAL HEALING

Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Transfiguration of the Lord Church

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Racial Harmony Commission and the St. Martin de Porres Society of St. Dominic Church welcome you to this special prayer service that was created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (<https://www.usccb.org/resources/prayer-service-racial-healing-our-land>).

Welcome and Introduction

Gathering Song: “We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

Opening Prayer

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.

Alleluia

Gospel Reading (Luke 10:25-37)

Pastoral Reflection

Examination of Conscience

(Silent Reflection)

Recognition of the Need for Healing and Forgiveness

I recognize that racism manifests in my own individual thoughts, 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

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, 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 you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

I Seek Forgiveness and Reconciliation to Act Justly

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 our 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Thank you for joining us this evening for this very important first step. Now having experienced God in our midst and moving our hearts, may we be stirred to action. See the final page for next steps – Opportunities for Action.

Opportunities for Action

5 Ways You can Cultivate Peace and Work for Racial Justice

1. Pray together.
2. Reach Out Together.
3. Bring what you've learning through reaching out to pray and reflect on the hard questions.
4. Learn together.
5. Act together.

For more information on all 5, you are encouraged to visit:

<https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/blog/2016/08/18/5-ways-you-can-cultivate-peace-and-work-for-racial-justice>

Prayerfully read, reflect, and discuss the issue of Racism:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Resources (<https://www.usccb.org/racism>)
- Archdiocese of New Orleans – Racial Harmony Resources (<https://nolacatholic.org/racial-harmony>)
- *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love* (U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter Against Racism, 2018)
- *Made in the Image and Likeness of God* (Pastoral Letter, Archbishop Emeritus Alfred Hughes, 2006)
- *Brothers and Sisters to Us* (U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter On Racism, 1979)

Other actions:

- Join or start a ministry (like the St. Martin de Porres Society)
- Sign up for a small study group: nolacatholic.org/racialhealing
- Read a book (*How the Word is Passed*); watch a movie (13th)
- Learn about racism interrupters and start interrupting

