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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."
– St. John Vianney*



June 18, 2020

SJV Wednesday Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these days, we seek to recognize the beautiful dignity of each human person! Sadly there is still the reality of racism in our lives. This is being made manifest in different ways, and in ways where people don't actually realize they are being racist. In some ways, as we perpetuate the talk of racism, it seems to also promote that way of thinking. Please keep in mind that racism can be applied to many different groups of people, and we don't want to allow any group to be subjected to that way of treatment. Remember that Jesus wants us to go out to ALL peoples and not just a select group (Matthew 28:19). However, we can't ignore it when others are blatantly acting upon it. From the pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Hearts* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we are invited to look into our hearts:

Racism can often be found in our hearts—in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and culture. As such, it can lead to thoughts and actions that we do not even see as racist, but nonetheless flow from the same prejudicial root. Consciously or subconsciously, this attitude of superiority can be seen in how certain groups of people are vilified, called criminals, or are perceived as being unable to contribute to society, even unworthy of its benefits. Racism can also be institutional, when practices or traditions are upheld that treat certain groups of people unjustly (pg 5).

Take the opportunity to reflect upon the prejudice that you may have consciously or subconsciously developed in your heart. Please recall Jesus' treatment to people who were not Jewish and the love He showed to them. May we imitate the love of Christ to every person, no matter their race.

Also, I would like to add that this Friday, June 19, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our hearts are meant to open up to others and not be hardened by selfishness. Our sins showed just how much Jesus opens up His heart to us as it was pierced on the cross after He died. Take courage, be not afraid, and open your heart to the heart of Jesus! I invite you to pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus this Friday. You can find the litany at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/teachings/litany-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus-270>

In Christ,
Fr. Tony Rowland