

Racial Justice Resources

The Office of Social Justice and Respect Life has assembled a growing list of resources on the topic of **Racial Justice** that includes information and links from the Vatican, USCCB, Bishops and various Catholic and Christian sources as well as other sources that help to support Catholic understanding of the sin of racism. These are organized under the following topics: **Church Statements on Race and Racism, Videos to Watch, Backgrounders on Racism, Articles, Study Guides, Prayers, Books, Other Resources, Audio Resources, Websites**. These are also listed in a downloadable .pdf. Note that we will be updating this periodically as new resources are found.

Church Statements on Race and Racism

Open Wide Our Hearts the Enduring Call to Love: A Pastoral Letter against Racism. USCCB, 2018.

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

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

Brothers and Sisters to Us: U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism. USCCB, 1979.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/brothers-and-sisters-us>

Statement of U.S. Bishop Chairmen in Wake of Death of George Floyd and National Protests, 2020.:

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2020/statement-us-bishop-chairmen-wake-death-george-floyd-and-national-protests>

Statement of U.S. Bishops' President on George Floyd and the Protests in American Cities, 2020:

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2020/statement-us-bishops-president-george-floyd-and-protests-american-cities>

Spanish: <https://www.usccb.org/es/news/2020/comunicado-del-presidente-de-la-conferencia-episcopal-sobre-george-floyd-y-las-protestas>

Seitz, Bishop Mark. *Night Will Be No More: Pastoral Letter Responding to Racism, Xenophobia, Hatred, and White Supremacy*. Diocese of El Paso, 2019. <https://www.hopeborder.org/nightwillbenomore-eng>

Spanish: <https://www.hopeborder.org/nightwillbenomore-spa>

Archbishop John C. Wester Urges the Faithful to Participate in Prayer & Action for Racial Justice, 2020:

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/17613/documents/2020/6/200601PRPrayforRacialJusticeFINAL2Combo.pdf>. **Spanish:**

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/17613/documents/2020/6/200601PRPrayforRacialJusticeSPANISHFINALCOMBO.pdf>

Olmsted, Most Reverend Thomas J. *Mass for Forgiveness of the Sin of Racism Homily*. Diocese of Phoenix, 2020. <https://dphx.org/father-forgive-the-sin-of-racism/>

Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D., Most Reverend Edward K. *The Catholic Church and The Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide in the United States Revisited*. Bellville, 2016. <https://richmonddiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RACIAL-DIVIDE-REVISITED.pdf>

Reconciled through Christ: On Reconciliation and Greater Collaboration between Hispanic American Catholics and African American Catholics, USCCB, 2013.

Flynn Archbishop Emeritus, Most Reverend Harry J. *In God's Image: Pastoral Letter on Racism*. Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, 2003. <https://www.archspm.org/in-gods-image-pastoral-letter-on-racism/>

Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself: U.S. Catholic Bishops Speak against Racism, 2001.

On Racial Harmony A Statement by the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, August 23, 1963.

Backgrounders on Racism

What is Systemic Racism? <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-systemic-racism.pdf>

Racism and Economic Inequality <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-economic-inequality.pdf>

Racism and Education <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-education.pdf>

Racism and Employment <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-employment.pdf>

Racism and Housing <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-housing.pdf>

Racism and Migration <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-migration.pdf>

Racism and the Criminal Justice System <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-criminal-justice.pdf>

Racism and the Native American Experience <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-native-american-experience.pdf>

Racism and Voting <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-and-voting.pdf>

Articles

Okińczyc-Cruz, Michael N. and Adrienne Alexander. "[Black and Latino Catholics agree: Our Lives Matter.](#)" *America Magazine*, 17 August 2020.

Ariel, Courtney. "[For our white friends desiring to be allies.](#)" *Sojourners*, 16 August 2017.

Elie, Paul. "[Confronting Flannery O'Connor's Racism.](#)" *Commonweal*, 12 August 2020.

Wezerek, Gus. "[Racism's Hidden Toll.](#)" *The New York Times*, 11 August 2020.

Roque, S.J., Jorge. "[Mundane Racism | Know Justice, Know Peace: A Jesuit Antiracism Retreat.](#)" *The Jesuit Post*, 5 August 2020.

Fontánez, S.J., Ángel Flores. "[Racism and White Supremacy | Know Justice, Know Peace: A Jesuit Antiracism Retreat.](#)" *The Jesuit Post*, 3 August 2020.

Kellerman, S.J., Chris. "[Catholic 101: Church Teaching and the Anti-Racism Movement](#)" *The Jesuit Post*, 30

July 2020.

Lori, William E. "[Archbishop Lori: How church teaching can help explain why 'Black Lives Matter'.](#)" *America Magazine*, 27 July 2020.

Martinson, Sophia (CSN). "[Fighting racism means putting faith in action, say Black Catholics.](#)" *America Magazine*, 27 July 2020.

Saint-Jean, S.J., Patrick. "[The Hole Left Behind by John Lewis.](#)" *The Jesuit Post*, 21 July 2020.

Briggs, Ken. "[Combating racism means confronting housing bias.](#)" *National Catholic Reporter*, 3 July 2020.

Catholic News Service. "[Bishops urge Congress to address better police training, accountability.](#)" *National Catholic Reporter*, 25 June 2020.

Crary, David. "[Black Catholics: Words are not Enough as Church Decries Racism.](#)" *AP News*, 21 June 2020.

Tang, Flora X. "[How Catholic vigils for racial justice can center the black experience.](#)" *America Magazine*, 16 June 2020.

Thomas, Ruby. "[Black Catholics at march say church's support needed more than ever.](#)" *Crux*, 13 June 2020.

Remedios, Jesse. "[Where can I learn more about environmental racism?](#)" *National Catholic Reporter*, 11 June 2020.

McCormick, S.J., Sullivan. "[6 Guidelines I've Learned for Talking About Race.](#)" *The Jesuit Post*, 9 June 2020.

Saint-Jean S.J., Patrick. "How Catholics Can Work for Racial Justice." *US Catholic: Faith in Real Life*, 9 June 2020. <https://www.uscatholic.org/articles/202006/how-catholics-can-work-racial-justice-32095%20>

"Required Reading: A Black Catholic Syllabus." *US Catholic: Faith in Real Life*, 5 June 2020. <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202006/required-reading-a-black-catholic-syllabus/>

Massingale, Fr. Bryan N. "[The assumptions of what privilege and what we can do about it.](#)" *National Catholic Reporter*, 1 June 2020.

Segura, Olga. "[How can Catholics help lead the fight against racism?](#)" *America Magazine*, 29 May 2020.

Massingale, Fr. Bryan N. "[If Bishops Want to Face Racism, Own Your Own Complicity.](#)" *Crux*, 24 August 2017.

[Lift Every Voice: A Lenten Journey Toward Racial Justice.](#) Edited by *Ignatian Solidarity Network*; Over 25 Authors from the Ignatian Network, 2016.

Massingale, Fr. Bryan N. "[Unpacking the "Soul-Sickness" of Racism.](#)" *Our Sunday Visitor*, 13 July 2016.

Massingale, Fr. Bryan N. "[African American Catholics and the Quest for Racial Justice.](#)" *U.S. Catholic*, 18 January 2015.

Copeland Ph.D., M. Shawn. "[Revisiting Racism.](#)" *America Magazine*, 7 July 2014.

Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D., Most Reverend Edward K. "What can the Catholic Church learn from #BlackLivesMatter?" *America Magazine*, 16 May 2006.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2016/05/03/what-can-catholic-church-learn-blacklivesmatter>

Study Guides

Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty study guide on Just Mercy:

<https://catholicmobilizing.org/just-mercy-catholic-study-guide>

Everyone Belongs Study Guide from Loyola Press: https://store.loyolapress.com/site/assets/discussion-gd/EveryoneBelongsActivities_Intro-Gr5.pdf

Examining Our Subconscious Perceptions: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/examining-our-subconscious-perceptions.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/examining-our-subconscious-perceptions-spa.pdf>

[JustFaith Ministries](#) has three programs on Racial Justice for small group reflections available for purchase.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=uNEtuvGRXjU&feature=emb_logo

- ❑ [Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege](#)
Faith and Racial Equity introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities and takes a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege.
- ❑ [Faith and Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice, and Restoration](#)
This eight-week program guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States, that we might work toward true reconciliation with God and restoration with one another.
- ❑ [Faith and Racial Justice: Changing Systems and Structures](#)
This 8-session program invites participants to formulate their own Christian-rooted responses to racism in their churches, workplaces, and communities.

Open Wide Our Hearts Study Guide from USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/study-guide-open-hearts-2019-09.pdf>

Prayers

[A Prayer Service for Racial Healing in Our Land](#) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

[An Examen for White Allies](#) | Ignatian Solidarity Network

[An Ignatian Prayer Vigil for Lamentation and Racial Justice](#) | Ignatian Solidarity Network

[Black Catholic History Rosary](#) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Dr. Kirk P. Gaddy

[God of the Journey: 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March Prayer](#) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Fr. Manuel Williams, C.R.

[Prayer Dismantling Racism](#) | Pax Christi USA

[Prayer for the Elimination of Racism](#) | Sisters of Mercy

[Prayer for Racial Healing](#) | Catholic Charities USA

[Prayer Resources](#) | USCCB

[Prayer Service for Peace in Our Communities](#): Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community

[Prayer Service](#) | St. Louis University Response to Ferguson

[Prayers of the Faithful Against Racism](#) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

[Stations of the Cross: Lament for Racial Injustice](#) | Anti-racism Implementation Team, Archdiocese of Chicago

[Prayer Deliver Us From Evil](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Prayer for an End to Racism](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Prayer for the Healing of Racism](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Prayer Service in a time of Community Distress](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Racism: Prayers and Reflections](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Reflection: A Voice for Liberty and Justice](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Reflection: Catholic Social Thought and Racial Solidarity](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Reflection: Catholic Social Thought and Racism](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Reflection: Racism](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

Books

African American History in New Mexico: Portraits from Five Hundred Years, edited by Bruce A. Glasrud, University of New Mexico Press, 2013.

Chatelain, Ph.D., Marcia. [Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America](#) . Liveright, 2020.

Copeland, Ph.D., M. Shawn. [Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being \(Intersections in African American Theology\)](#). Fortress Press, 2009.

Cone, James. [The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#). Orbis Books, 2013.

Davis, Cyprian. [The History of Black Catholics in the United States](#). Herder & Herder, 1995.

Dyson, Michael Eric. [Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America](#). St. Martin's Press, 2017.

- Kendi, Ibram X. [*How to be an Antiracist*](#). One World, 2019.
- Massingale, Fr. Brian. [*Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*](#). Orbis Books, 2010.
- Massingale, Rev. Bryan. [*Racial Justice in the Catholic Church*](#). 2010.
- McIntosh, Peggy. *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*, 1989.
- Menakem, Resmaa. [*My Grandmother's Hands*](#). Central Recovery Press, 2017.
- Mikulich, Alex, et al. [*The Scandal of White Complicity in U.S. Hyperincarceration*](#). Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- Pramuk, Christopher. [*Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line*](#). Michael Glazier, 2013.
- Saad, Layla F. and Robin J DiAngelo. "Me and White Supremacy." Sourcebooks, 2020. [Available as eBook at MRC](#).
- Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. One World, 2015. [Book available at the MRC](#).
- Thomas, Angie. "The Hate U Give." Harper Collins, 2017. [Available as eBook at the MRC](#).
- USCCB. *Everyone Belongs*. Loyola Press, 2019. [Available at the MRC](#) or [purchase here](#).
- Wallis, Jim. [*America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America*](#). Brazos Press, 2017.

Other Resources

A list of various reading materials: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/ncr-today/anti-racism-reading-list-ncr>

[Acknowledging Systemic Racism and Unpacking Whiteness](#) | NETWORK

African Americans in process of Sainthood <https://www.nbccongress.org/black-catholic-sainthood.html>

[Books on Racism Resource](#) | Sisters of Mercy

[Classroom Resources](#) | Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching for Tolerance

Combatting Racism—Educational Resources from USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism/combating-racism-educational-resources>

Combatting Racism—Parish Resources from USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism/combating-racism-parish-resources>

[Creative Voice: Celebrating African American History Month An Interview with Donna Toliver Grimes](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Creative Voice: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Reflection by Ronaldo M. Cruz](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Discussion Guide: 13th Movie](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Diversity & Anti-Racism Tools for Engaging Communities](#) | Training For Change

[Fact Sheet: The Catholic Church's Response to Racism](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern
[Fact Sheet: Rosa McCauley Parks: Taking a Stand for Justice](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

[Know Justice, Know Peace: A Jesuit Anti-Racism Retreat](#) | The Jesuit Post

[Letter from a Birmingham Jail Study Guide](#) | U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

[Not as Helpless as We Think: 3 Ways to Stand in Solidarity with Ferguson](#) | Sojourners

[Race on Campus Archive](#) | The New York Times

[Racial Justice Movie List Handout](#) | Education for Justice, a Project of Center of Concern

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail
https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

[Talking About Race](#) National Museum of African American History and Culture

USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism Resources: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>

Audio Resources

[On Being with Krista Tippett: Resmaa Menakem "Notice the Rage; Notice the Silence"](#)

[Podcast: Olga Segura on having frank conversations about race.](#) *America Magazine*, 12 June 2020.

[Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church Podcast](#) Bishop Edward K. Braxton, *America Magazine*, 5 May 2016.

"A Parish in the Black Catholic Tradition." *Morning Glory Podcast* from EWTN, 12 August 2020, <https://www.ewtn.com/radio/podcasts/morning-glory-~HD>.

Alexander, Michelle. "*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarnation in the Age of Colorblindness 10th Anniversary Edition*." Recorded Books Inc., 2010. [Audiobook Available at MRC](#).

"Catholics and Racial Justice." *Morning Glory Podcast* from EWTN, 14 August 2020, <https://www.ewtn.com/radio/podcasts/morning-glory-~HD>.

"Racism and the Catholic Response in Detroit with Archbishop Vigneron." *Eyes on Jesus Podcast* from Unleash the Gospel, 10 June 2020, <https://www.unleashthegospel.org/episodes/episode-10-racism-and-the-catholic-response-in-detroit/>.

Thomas, Angie. "*The Hate U Give*." Harper Collins, 2017. [Audiobook Available at MRC](#).

Websites

Archdiocese of Baltimore—Journey to Racial Justice: <https://www.archbalt.org/racismpastoral19/>

Archdiocese of Hartford—Office for Catholic Social Ministry: <http://www.catholicocialjustice.org/racial-justice.html>

Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community: <https://archdiosf.org/african-american-catholic-community>

Cultural Diversity in the Church: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/cultural-diversity-church>

Diocese of Orange—Advocacy Issues: <https://www.rcbo.org/resource/about-life-justice-and-peace/racism/>

Diocese of Pittsburgh—Catholic Voices on Racism: <https://diopitt.org/catholic-voices-on-racism>

PBS Race the Power of an Illusion: http://www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm

Required reading: A Black Catholic syllabus: A reading list on the history of Black Catholics in the United States and their contributions to Catholic theology, history, and activism:

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/202006/required-reading-a-black-catholic-syllabus/>

The National Black Catholic Congress: <https://www.nbccongress.org/>