

## **Bulletin Article for the Thirteenth Sunday in OT 6.28.20**

From the time when I was a little boy growing up in the 1960's, I have vivid memories of the growth and explosion of the Civil Rights Movement. Indeed, that "movement" brought about some necessary changes in our society, but the recent injustices that our world has witnessed in recent months has brought to awful light the persistent reality of the sin of racism that is present, and sadly has always been present, in our land (and throughout the world). There is no way around it, racist attitudes that spawn racist actions, are sins against the beauty of God's Creation. As a people of Faith, we believe that God is the Creator of ALL, and that in God's Loving Design, God has created humanity (ALL humanity) in God's Image and likeness. As God's created children, we are ALL created in God's Image and we all share in the one Family, as brothers and sisters, of the One Triune God in whose Image we have all been created.

With the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered and poisoned God's Creation creating animosity, division, tension, isolation, hatred, and separation all that oppose and are in conflict with the Unity and Love and Peace of God's Plan. The end of racism *has to begin* within our own hearts. *We*, as people of Faith, must look within our own hearts and see, name, and seek to transform the presence of sin (like racism) by the Grace of Love. Love, who IS God, is the only life-giving, life-sustaining power that exists. It is only through allowing Love to enter us and transform us from within that we can ever hope to rid ourselves of this cancerous presence. One step in the transforming and healing process of conversion is prayer. Our US Bishops have given us a beautiful prayer to end racism. I share that prayer here. Let us pray for the conversion of our hearts individually, and as a city, and as a country that by the power of God's Love this generation might be the catalyst for the reform that is needed to create a land and a world that truly reflects the Image of our Loving God found in true Justice, Dignity, Respect, Love, and Peace for ALL of God's Children.

### **Prayer to Overcome Racism**

Mary, friend and mother to all,  
through your Son, God has found a way to  
unite himself to every human being,  
called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son,  
seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed  
to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son  
the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism  
and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son,  
so that prejudice and animosity  
will no longer infect our minds or hearts  
but will be replaced with a love  
that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus  
warms our hearts:  
pray for us.

Amen.