



# RACISM CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY

In years past, many of us have had the fortune and privilege of associating words such as independence, freedom, and justice for all with our country, but since the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, our eyes have been opened more than ever to see that these ideals truly have not been shared by all.

Cries for justice that many of us have not seen or heard in our lifetime have been raised in our community, nation, and world. Some of us realize that the freedoms that we espouse as a country have not been shared equally by all. Justice for all, especially, has not been the experience of our Black brothers and sisters.

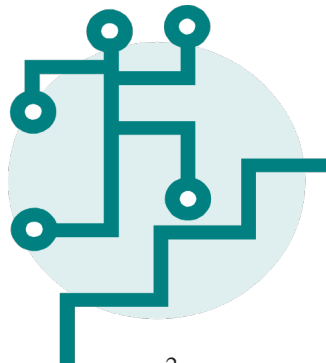
As a Catholic people of faith, we are called to add our voices to the many cries for justice that we have heard in the peaceful protests of recent months. As a church, we have advocated for the voiceless because we believe that all lives matter. This is our foundational Catholic Social Teaching principle on the life and dignity of the human person. When we advocate for all, we combat the very systems that oppress. Today, more than ever, we must add our voices to say Black Lives Matter and help to flush out the sin of racism that permeates every aspect of Black life.

We each might find different paths to become more involved. Perhaps some of us are not exactly sure what to do or feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of this issue. But the most important thing is to start somewhere. This is precisely why our archdiocesan offices of Multicultural Ministry and Catholic Charities have partnered to develop an opportunity that we are calling: "Walking in My Shoes: Challenge to Eradicate Racism." This is intended to be a resource to guide you on a journey for understanding, healing, and a transformation so needed in our community and nation. It is not another program that begins and ends, but an invitation to listen, learn, reflect, and act! And in so doing, to allow the Spirit of Christ to permeate and convert your hearts, so in turn, all of us might become instruments of change and healing and builders of unity.

This tool can be incorporated and integrated into your daily life, parish life, schools, youth ministry, adult faith formation programs, bulletins, newsletters, and RCIA, to name a few.

Addressing the issue and sin of racism and working towards systemic change will take time, which is why no single program or campaign will quickly solve this problem. This tool is meant to assist this ongoing process by raising awareness through various resources and activities.

For more resources go to the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>



## HOW TO USE THE CHALLENGE

- ***The Challenge to Listen*** section is made up of short videos that can be used in many settings. They provide an opportunity to meet some local Catholics who share their personal stories and experiences with racism. Hear the voices of brothers and sisters in the community to better understand what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes.
- ***The Challenge to Learn*** section provides some excellent online resources and suggestions to better understand the origin and dynamics of systemic racism. Explore these thought provoking pieces to help you gain some insight into how racism permeates so many aspects of life.
- ***The Challenge to Reflect*** section provides an opportunity to ponder what our Church teachings bring to the issue of racism. Take some time to contemplate some of these profound creations born out of the sin of racism.
- ***The Challenge to Act*** section gives some very concrete ways to move out of our comfort zones through immersions and advocacy so as to truly become engaged and be part of the solution to eradicate the sin of racism. Take the opportunity to get involved to work toward helping to eradicate racism.



### Challenge to Listen

"Walking in My Shoes Video Series": Watch video interviews featuring local Catholics reflecting on their personal experiences with racism:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AXn7IXRktHs7R7ULQ04ftBO2h-3u6C2/view?usp=sharing>

Some of the topics include:

- Past and Present Realities
- Civil Rights
- The Church and Agencies Combatting Racism
- Social Concerns & Social Justice
- Past and Present Parish Life
- Local Black Catholic History



# CHALLENGE

## Challenge to Learn

- 1 Watch the documentary, Facing An Uncomfortable Truth by Mr. Steve Crump:  
<https://www.ket.org/program/facing-an-uncomfortable-truth/>
- 2 Read about Black inventors:  
<https://www.history.com/news/8-black-inventors-african-american>
- 3 Read about the history of Juneteenth:  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth>
- 4 Read about the Tulsa Race Massacre & the Rosewood Massacre:  
<https://www.tulsaohistory.org/exhibit/1921-tulsa-race-massacre/>  
<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/rosewood-massacre>
- 5 Read about Alberta Odell Jones, civil rights pioneer:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/us/alberta-jones-murder-louisville.html>
- 6 Choose one (or read all):
  - How can I have white privilege when I am poor?  
[https://amesburyquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/explaining\\_white\\_privilege\\_to\\_a\\_broke\\_white\\_person.pdf](https://amesburyquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/explaining_white_privilege_to_a_broke_white_person.pdf)
  - Why all parents should talk to their children about race.  
<https://www.npr.org/2019/10/08/767205198/the-things-parents-don-t-talk-about-with-their-kids-but-should>
  - “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”  
<http://convention.myacpa.org/houston2018/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/UnpackingTheKnapsack.pdf>
- 7 Robin DiAngelo’s article on white “niceness,” “White people assume niceness is the answer to racial inequality. It’s not”:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/16/racial-inequality-niceness-white-people?bblinkid=230608465&bbemailid=22784880&bbejrid=1553679812>
- 8 Read about Black racial identity:  
<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-black-americans-view-their-racial-identity/>
- 9 Read about Black wealth building and how it has been prevented in Louisville and the U.S.:  
<https://www.leoweekly.com/2018/08/state-black-louisville-2018-racial-wealth-gap/>  
<https://www.essence.com/news/money-career/what-will-it-take-to-rehabilitate-black-wealth/>
- 10 Read about Racism: Confronting the Poison in Our Common Home:  
<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/racism-background.pdf>

- 11 Take the Implicit Bias Test:  
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>
- 12 Read/listen to "A 'Forgotten History' of How the U.S. Government Segregated America":  
<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america>
- 13 Read "Redlining Louisville: Racial Capitalism and Real Estate":  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a73ce5ba85ce4c3f80d365ab1ff89010>
- 14 Read the article "Whiteness" from Talking About Race-National Museum of African American History & Culture:  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/whiteness>
- 15 Read "Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror":  
<https://lynchinginamerica.eji.org/report/>



## CHALLENGE

### Challenge to Reflect

- 1 Reflect on two documents on racism from the USCCB, Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself & Open Wide Our Hearts:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/upload/14-026-love-thy-neighbor.pdf>
- 2 Listen to and reflect on the song "Glory" by Common & John Legend (From the motion picture Selma):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnlozPJWTPM>
- 3 Read this scriptural reflection and examination of conscience on racism:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/scripture-reflection-unity.pdf>
- 4 Listen to and reflect on the song "Strange Fruit":  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Web007rzSOI>
- 5 Reflect on a recent statement made by Pope Francis on racism:  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-06/pope-francis-usa-george-floyd-protests-no-racism-violence.html>
- 6 Reflect on the poem "I, Too" by Langston Hughes:  
<https://poets.org/poem/i-too>
- 7 Listen to and reflect on the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson & John Rosamond Johnson:  
<https://www.blackpast.org/black-past-features/black-national-anthem/>

- 8 Reflect on images of a non-white Jesus:  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/06/26/jesus-was-not-white-heres-why-we-should-stop-pretending-he-was>
- 9 Reflect on Black saints and martyrs:  
<https://www.nbccongress.org/black-saints-and-martyrs.html>
- 10 Reflect on Black Catholic men and women and their road to sainthood:  
<https://www.nbccongress.org/black-catholic-sainthood.html>
- 11 Watch Sr. Thea Bowman's June 1989 address to the U.S. Catholic Bishops on Black Catholic Spirituality:  
<https://www.usccb.org/media/303>
- 12 Listen to and reflect on the Negro spiritual "Motherless Child" ("Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child");  
<https://www.wrti.org/post/story-behind-african-american-spiritual-evokes-cry-motherless-child>
- 13 Watch and reflect on the video "How the Church Can Combat Racism and White Privilege-A Conversation with Fr. Bryan Massingale": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONiie2oYJCQ>
- 14 Read and reflect on the "African American Presence in the U.S.A. and in the Church":  
<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/resources/upload/presence-african-american.pdf>
- 15 Reflect on the prayer for peace:  
<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/16-056-prayer-for-peace-prayer-card.pdf>
- 16 Read and reflect on Bishop Fernand Cheri's address on racism with religious superiors' conference:  
<http://www.catholiccommunityradio.org/blog-index/2020/8/19/bishop-cheri-addresses-racism-with-religious-superiors-conference>
- 17 Read and reflect on The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide in the United States Revisited, A Pastoral Letter by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.:  
<https://www.ilcatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/Racial-Divide-Revisited.pdf>
- 18 Utilize and reflect on this "Prayer Service for Racial Healing in Our Land":  
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/prayer-service-racial-healing-our-land>



# CHALLENGE

## Challenge to Act

- 1 Worship with a Black Catholic congregation.
  - Christ the King Catholic Church - 718 S. 44th Street, Louisville, KY 40211
  - Holy Rosary Catholic Church - 378 Rosary Heights Road, Springfield, KY 40069
  - Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church - 1545 S. Louis Coleman, Jr. Dr., Louisville, KY 40211
  - St. Augustine Catholic Church - 233 S. Spalding Avenue, Lebanon, KY 40033
  - St. Augustine Catholic Church - 1310 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40203
  - St. Bartholomew Catholic Church - 2042 Buechel Bank Road, Louisville, KY 40218
  - St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church - 1818 Rangeland Road, Louisville, KY 40219
  - St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church - 3112 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40211
  - St. Monica Catholic Church - 407 S. Third Street, Bardstown, KY 40004
- 2 Pray the Stations of the Cross focusing on overcoming racism:  
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/stations-of-the-cross-overcoming-racism.pdf>
- 3 Read about Daniel Rudd and visit his memorial at the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral Cemetery located in Bardstown, KY.  
<https://www.nbccongress.org/about-us.html>
- 4 Visit historical markers located in downtown Louisville connected to the trade of enslaved humans.  
<https://explorekychistory.ky.gov/tours/show/26> Note: #'s 3, 4, 11 & 13
- 5 Patronize local Black-owned businesses.  
<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/shopping/2020/06/15/louisville-businesses-50-black-owned-spots-support/5341075002/>
- 6 Make plans to attend an event organized by the African American Catholic community, i.e. African American Catholic Leadership Awards Dinner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Daniel Rudd Institute (the Thea Bowman Institute), Lenten parish fish fries, parish events, etc. (Contact the Office of Multicultural Ministry for more information.)
- 7 Take part in civic and political actions to influence change, i.e. write a letter, sign a petition, contact your local & state political officials, participate in a march, engage in consumer spending, lobby, apply corporate, and political pressure, or volunteer.
- 8 Visit The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration & The National Memorial for Peace and Justice located in Montgomery, AL. <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>
- 9 Share a meal with a person of African descent.



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