

Healing Racism



in a World of Diverse Cultures

The face of racism looks different today from the way it looked in the past. Overt racism is easily condemned, but the sin of racism is often with us in more subtle forms. Although there are various patterns of racism that exist in our hearts and in our world (institutional, environmental, individual), this day we gather in the love of God and neighbor to examine the pattern of Spatial Racism. We beg for both forgiveness and conversion as we open our hearts and minds in prayer.

Song: Place at the Table (Lori True)

For everyone born a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead..

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man a system that's fair.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live..

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

***And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy!
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!***

Spatial Racism

Spatial Racism is the term given to patterns of metropolitan development in which the affluent create racially and economically segregated suburbs or gentrified areas of cities, leaving the economically poor—mainly African Americans, Hispanics and some newly arrived immigrants – isolated in deteriorating areas of the cities and older suburbs.

The devastating impact of massive economic disparities between communities and of isolating people geographically according to race, religion, and class is well documented. Spatial racism creates a visible chasm between those who are rich and those who are poor, as well as Caucasian people and people of color.

Let us pray as we reflect on some of the economic inequities that result from Spatial racism.

Those who live in the economically depressed areas:

Lack decent affordable housing.

Lack adequate staff, faculty, buildings, and supplies for public schools.

Lack capital investment for business and commerce.

Have little or no opportunities for jobs near home and insufficient public transit to jobs in the suburbs.

Find that 59% of the time African Americans seek to buy houses, they encounter discrimination.

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12

The body is one and has many members, but all members, many though they are, are one body; so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. You are then the Body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it.

Silence

Response: We beg for both forgiveness and conversion as we open our hearts and minds this day.

Prayer for a Diverse Community

Creator of all races and ethnicities,
help us see that a diverse community is the way
to deepen our lives and to know you more deeply.

Guide us to see that entering into a vital and just relationship
with others who are different from us is the way to make ourselves whole.

Guard us from fear of the other,
from the fear that our own security is threatened
if we become truly willing to make a place at the table for all.

Open us to live out what we profess to believe:

That our true security is in You and in your call to justice and peace,
that we are a part of your global family,
that, because of your Incarnation, the human dignity of everyone is sacred,
and that we are constantly called to conversion and inclusive community.

We pray that you help us recognize any forms of racism in our hearts,
and in our legal systems and social structures.

Forgive us our sins of exclusion. Heal our souls and spirits.
Ground us in compassion for all through your grace.

Help us take the steps you call us to take to build a more just community,
where difference is respected and where we can all join hands
and rejoice in the common good.

Through the mercy of God, we pray. Amen.

(Education for Justice)