

Prayers of the Faithful Against Racism – from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

As we enter this season of joyful anticipation, let us bring to God our prayers for peace as we await the fulfillment of God's promise.

For our Church, that we may celebrate and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our community, our worship, our ministries, and our leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, that they may work to end the violence perpetrated by verbal attacks, deadly weapons, and cold indifference. May our nation and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our community, that we may receive the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language, or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

For parents and educators, that we may teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully and have the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.

For this faith community, that we may hear the call of our leaders in the new Pastoral Letter against Racism to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to act together to end violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that the Spirit of Wisdom may help them strive to work for equal education, suitable housing, and equal employment opportunities for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may be vigilant in our protection of those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially those who have died in the pursuit of justice, may they be welcomed into the great glory of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, whose promise of justice sustains us,
as we await your coming at Christmas,
hear these our prayers that we might ready our hearts and our communities
for the coming of Christ, our example in all things.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful (written by Lori Stanley)

Leader: For the Church, for Pope Francis, the bishops, the priests and the deacons to guide and encourage the faithful and help them mature in their faith and advance in conversion, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For an end to the violence perpetrated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of ethnicity, language or culture, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions – or even our silence – can impact our communities, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For a deeper realization of the sacredness of humanity. May we find ways to build solidarity within our domestic and global human family to end poverty, hunger, discrimination and violence, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that this season of Lent be a time of renewal for all Christians and that our efforts to draw closer to Christ draw us closer to each other. May we be willing to follow Christ in new and dynamic ways and with fuller vision to discover a deeper holiness, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the canonization of Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Henriette Delille, Venerable Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Mary Lange, Servant of God Julia Greeley and Servant of God Thea Bowman and asking for their intercession for us all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who have passed away, that they may be guided by the angels in the way of peace and reward, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all of the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: **For the intention of this Mass** _____ and all who have died may enjoy the vision of God with those in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

A Prayer for Dismantling Racism

Written by the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team.

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities – those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.