



Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

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September 4, 2018

Dear Brother Bishops,

This coming Sunday is the Feast of St. Peter Claver. St. Peter Claver is the patron saint of enslaved peoples and ministry to African Americans. In recognition of his coming feast day and this country's continual need to seek peace, racial reconciliation, and healing, the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism is providing the attached petitions and prayer for peace in our communities for use in masses for the 23rd Sunday in ordinary time.

Thank you, and may God bless us all.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

Enclosures

Petitions:

For an end to the painful damage wrought by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes and communities around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, whatever their ethnic background may be, let us pray to the Lord.

For the strength to want to hear and understand the stories and experiences of those who are different from each one of us, and to respond with respect, let us pray to the Lord.

For the wisdom to teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully, and the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our faith community, that we may respond boldly to the Holy Spirit's call to act together to end violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord.

For the protection of all police and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety; for fair and just policing that will promote peace and wellbeing in all our neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.

For our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our parish, that we may cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer for Peace in Our Communities: (either after the prayers of the faithful or at some other point in the mass)

Let us pray . . . O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need. Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required . . . “Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen