

BECOMING ANTIRACIST

June 2022: Juneteenth and Beyond

RACIST: One who is supporting a racist policy through their actions or inaction or expressing a racist idea.

ANTIRACIST: One who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea. (definitions are from the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, 2019)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12: 25-26 For the body does not consist of one member but of many; that there be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Juneteenth (June 19): Juneteenth is a celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States. While the Emancipation Proclamation took effect in January, 1863, it wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the announcement was made in Texas that all slaves were free. The observation of this celebration began the following year to celebrate the day in history that slaves in the far South were told they were free. In 1979, Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Although 47 states (including Washington) currently recognize Juneteenth as a celebration or holiday, many Americans are still not aware of its importance. (from "*The African Americans, Many Rivers to Cross, What is Juneteenth?*" with Henry Louis Gates Jr. on PBS.org., PBS Learning Media, 2013.)

Education: Racism exists. We live in a highly racialized society. We're all part of the picture and impacted. None of us asked for this. None of us are responsible for the past. But all of us are responsible for how we show up in the present and for our part in creating the future. (from St. Joseph parish Antiracism training by Scott Winn, 2022)

Reflection/ Question: How do we unlearn the attitudes about race we have inherited? How do we learn to be truly antiracist? In what ways do you see Christianity being about struggle and liberation? How do we love one another (all people) as Jesus taught us to do?

For education and awareness about becoming antiracist, see the St. Joseph Parish website under Antiracism Committee for an archive of monthly Antiracism columns in our weekly bulletins from June 2021 through June 2022

Here is a partial reading list for becoming antiracist: (books)

1. *Stamped From the Beginning*, by Ibram X. Kendi, 2017
2. *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander, 2012
3. *The Color of Compromise*, by Jemar Tisby, 2019
4. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*, by Dr. Joy Degruy, 2017
5. *Until We Reckon*, by Danielle Sereed, 2021
6. *White Fragility*, by Robin Diangelo, 2018
7. *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown, 2018
8. *Uprooting Racism*, by Paul Kivel, 2017 (includes how to be a strong white ally)
9. *How To Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi, 2019
10. *Between The World and Me*, by Ta-Nahisi Coates, 2015
11. *Me and White Supremacy*, by Layla F. Saad, 2020
12. *How the Word is Passed*, by Clint Smith, 2021



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Becoming Antiracist archive

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13. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by James H. Cone, 2013
14. *Across that Bridge*, by John Lewis, 2017
15. *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*, by Daniel P. Horan, 2021
16. *A Testament of Hope, The Essential Writings and Speeches, Martin Luther King Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington, 1986
17. *40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery*, Simmons College of Kentucky, 2019

JUNETEENTH A CALL TO ACTION

Before we can celebrate Juneteenth, we as a country must do better at living into its promise.

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from the inhumane and long-term effects of systemic racism.

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

So, on Juneteenth, we recommit to the work that needs to be done for reconciliation to address and correct our participation in unjust structures. To fully embody our belief in the life and dignity of every human person.

And, while we persist in these endeavors, we do not forget our mission to meet our community's immediate needs in the Archdiocese of Seattle offering care, food, shelter and other services to all who require it.

Every day, let us honor the dignity in every person and work to fulfill the promise of Juneteenth.

Excerpts from Msgr. John J. Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities

CATHOLICS CELEBRATE
JUNETEENTH
—DAY OF FREEDOM—



JUNE 19
DAY OF RECOGNITION
DAY OF RESTORATION
DAY OF CELEBRATION