

As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Tuesday, **July 11, 2017**, we remember to continue to “Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice, **particularly racism**. We pledge prayer, education and advocacy and commit to using our resources in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God’s abundant love and desire that all may have life.” (LCWR Assembly Resolution, 2016)

Most of us will never have to face the humiliating situations and staggering injustices borne by our sisters and brothers of color. We are called to address the “unrecognized and unreconciled racism” present in our own systems and structures. We are called to look seriously at our own institutional racism and acknowledge our own complicity both individually and communally in oppressive systems and structures. The injustice cannot continue.



An Anti-Racism Litany
(Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Racial Justice)

As long as any of our churches remain closed or resistant to invite, welcome and embrace people of different races and ethnicities...

✠ “We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as hiring and appointing ‘a satisfactory minimum of ‘qualified people of color to decision-making and other positions in our parishes, schools and pastoral centers is done out of tokenism...

✠ “We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as qualified persons of color seeking a position as principal or teacher comes against a ‘need not apply’ attitude in any school...

✠ “We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as racial and ethnic slurs are directed at children on our athletic courts, fields and playgrounds...

✠ “We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as parish celebrations do not reflect the diversity of foods reflected in the cultures of its parishioners...

✠ “We need to create an anti-racist church.”

Let us pray:

God of unity, help us appreciate our differences. Help us not to be color blind but to appreciate and learn from the great spectrum of languages, traditions and characteristics that each race and ethnic group celebrates in themselves.

Give us the courage and the strength to risk a word, a gesture, a hand in fellowship will all people in order to build an anti-racist church, a church which stands against those who seek to divide, a church which longs for union with You. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.