

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL NEW JERSEY
SYSTEMIC RACISM RESOURCE LIST

WHAT IS SYSTEMIC RACISM?

“Open Wide Our Hearts,” US Conference of Catholic Bishops November 2018: *“Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. Today’s continuing inequalities in education, housing, employment, wealth, and representation in leadership positions are rooted in our country’s shameful history of slavery and systemic racism.”*

Voice of the Faithful New Jersey offers a unique perspective for our current national conversation on systemic racism:

1. A deep spiritual foundation recognizing the unity and oneness of all creation as the very core of our belief that all are equal--expressed so succinctly by Fr. Richard Rohr "...that the divinity within ourselves is one and the same in all--all individuals, all creatures, all life...God has inhabited all that God has created..."

2. An honest appraisal of racism in the Catholic Church and in our wider society, recognizing that the uniqueness of this moment requires a response from all.

3. We are offering suggestions to educate and enlighten and hopefully bring about changes first within ourselves and then within our communities. These resources are a primary basis that will lead to other books, articles, essays, videos, podcasts and movies. They are not meant to be comprehensive, just a beginning.

Spiritual Foundation - Resources

A very limited selection illustrative of the universal oneness in the continuing evolution and convergence of science and theology

The Universal Christ : How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for and Believe by Fr. Richard Rohr. Convergent Books, 2019, New York.

Video: *Richard Rohr on The Universal Christ*, September 16, 2018, [YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD7B3wr3xeY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD7B3wr3xeY)

Daily Meditations: https://cac.org/email-sign-up/?tfa_5118=1

The Time is Now, A Call to Uncommon Courage, by Sr. Joan Chittister. Crown Publishing, 2019, New York

Podcast

Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations , Sr. Joan Chittister, *Change the World:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md9b9bCDhWI>

Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love, by Sr. Elizabeth Johnson. Bloomberg, 2014, London

Is God's Charity Broad Enough for Bears?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHKdcEjnL38>

Videos

Where to Begin with Thomas Merton, Fr. Dan Horan, Video, You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y72AT365vmU>

Thomas Merton Merton in His Own Words, YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr3V-BnENmA>

The Gospel of John, Ch. 17: 21- Jesus' unity prayer "...so that they may all be one..."

Racism and the Catholic Church - Resources

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church

By Byron Massingale, a Black priest and Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at Fordham University. Orbis Books, 2010. 224 pp. The book examines the presence of racism in America from its early history through the Civil Rights Movement and the election of Barack Obama. It also explores how Catholic social teaching has been used--and not used--to promote reconciliation and justice. Massingale writes, "We all are wounded by the sin of racism... How can we struggle together against an evil that harms us all?"

Also Bryan Massingale

Article

"The Assumptions of White Privilege and What We Can Do About It"

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/assumptions-white-privilege-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>

America podcast interview

<https://youtu.be/ONiie2oYJCQ>

Commonweal podcast interview

<https://dcs.megaphone.fm/SM5658346928.mp3?key=8eaa4e812ac077e1934bc79eb18cdfad>

Daniel Horan OFM

“When Will US Bishops Address Evil Systemic Racism?” In this column he takes the US Bishops to task for not addressing systemic racism in the Catholic Church and American society. The text of the letter that he criticizes follows.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/faith-seeking-understanding/when-will-us-bishops-address-evil-systemic-racism-head>

The Text of the Bishops’ Letter: Open Wide Our Hearts

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>

Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ

“We Need to talk about Racism in the Catholic Church.” In this article, a Black Jesuit writes about racism in the Catholic Church during its history—and why now is the time we need to have this conversation.

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/202009/we-need-to-talk-about-racism-in-the-catholic-church/>

Church of St. Francis Xavier, New York

Pastoral Council Statement on Communal Commitment to Establishing Racial Equity and Dismantling Racial Injustice

<https://sfxavier.org/news/pastoral-council-statement>

Pledge

<https://sfxavier.org/news/a-pledge-for-racial-justice>

Black Women’s Voices

FutureChurch has undertaken a multi-year initiative to address the sin of racism within the Catholic Church and work for racial and reparative justice by lifting up and engaging the prophetic voices of Black Catholic Women who have been instrumental in shaping our Catholic faith and identity.

The multifaceted initiative, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, is entitled, “Women Witnesses for Racial Justice” and will officially kick off in November during Black Catholic History Month with a Liturgy of the Word.

<https://www.futurechurch.org/women-witnesses-for-racial-justice-downloads>

In *Habits of Change: An Oral History of American Nuns* by Carole Garibaldi Rogers (Oxford University Press, 2011) pages 186-198 contain the oral histories of two Black nuns. The first is the voice of the superior general of an all-Black religious community, The Oblate Sisters of Providence. The second is the voice of a Black woman in an overwhelmingly White religious community, the Sisters of Notre Dame deNamur. Both women reflect on their childhoods, the society and Catholic Church environments surrounding them, and their adult lives of ministry as Black women in the Catholic Church.

Systemic Racism in America - Resources

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think and Do by Jennifer Eberhart, Kindle and Audiobook. Viking Press, 250 pages. This book is a personal examination of the controversies and culturally powerful issues of our time, and its impact on contemporary race relations and the criminal justice system.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. Beacon Press 192 pages. This is an in-depth exploration by anti-racist educator Robin DiAngelo. She examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality and what can be done to engage more constructively.

How to be an Antiracist: A simple and Practical Guide to Learn How to Trust Each Race with Dignity, Eliminate Racial Prejudice and Stop Discrimination by Ibrahim X. Kendi. Random House. 320 pages. Kendi points out liberating ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. He argues that we should think of racist not as a pejorative but a simple, widely encompassing term of description. He relates this evolving concept through the events of his own life, observation from classes he has taught and contemporary events.

My Grandmother's Hands: Radicalized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Hears and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem, MSW. LCSW. Central Recovery Press. 300 pages. Resmaa Menakem examines the damage, the physical consequences of discrimination from the perspective of the body-centered psychology. This book is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched radicalized divide.

Articles

"The Fight to Redefine Racism" by Kalefa Sannah. How to be a Non-Racist. New Yorker Magazine, August 19, 2020.

"The Case for Reparation" by Ta-Nehisi Coates The Atlantic Magazine June, 2014.

"White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh,
<https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf>

Podcasts

Krista Tippett #849 Isabel Wilkerson - The History is Long. The History is Deep
#842 Resmaa Menakem - Notice the Rage; Notice the Silence.
#855 Robin DiAngelo and Resmaa Menakem in Conversation

Systemic Racism in American Society Resources in Movies

Racism within the justice system and the police departments:

- **Just Mercy—2019. Bryan Stevenson**

A story of Justice and Redemption. It is based on the life of attorney Bryan Stevenson and his client Walter McMillian, a young African – American man who was put on death row for a murder he did not commit. The movie details McMillian's appeal and eventual release thanks to the help of Bryan Stevenson and demonstrates the systematic racism still present in our criminal justice system today.

Stream this film for free with Amazon Prime and Google Play. Also, YouTube, Vudu, Redbox, and many other sites.

- **The Glass Shield—1994 Charles Burnett. An American drama.**

A look at the inside workings of a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department from the perspective of John Johnson a rookie deputy sheriff and the first black deputy sheriff. Because of his inexperience and race he experiences tension with his white colleagues. He also uncovers a conspiracy around the arrest of a subject

Watch on Prime Video

- **13th-2016. Ava DuVernay**

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial equality in the US focusing on the fact that the nations prisons are disproportionately filled with African- Americans.

Watch with Netflix subscription

Racism as experienced by persons of color as they move through their lives:

- **The Green Book—2018**-based on book by Victor Hugo Green a black postal worker.

A dramatized biopic focused on a black musician Don Shirley and Tony Vallelonga, his Italian -American chauffeur and bodyguard-travels through the Deep South during a music tour in the early 60's

Watch with Hulu subscription

- **42: The Jackie Robinson Story-2013 –Screenplay** by Brian Heigland

In 1946 Brooklyn Dodger manager Branch Rickey defies major league baseball's notorious color barrier and signed Jackie Robinson a black baseball player. It highlights open racism from many sides.

Watch on iTunes store and on VH1 for free

- **Loving—2010**

This movie is about a couple at the center of a landmark 1967 Supreme Court that invalidated laws prohibiting inter racial marriage. It deals with the reality of a couple who just wanted to live out their union in peace. Their names were Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter.
Watch on HBOMAX

- **American Son-2019-** film based on Broadway play by Christopher Demos -Brown
Drama of an estranged interracial couple to reunite in a Florida police station to find their missing teenage son. The subject matter deals with the unjustified killings of black men at the hands of often white police officers who are typically held unaccountable.
Watch on Netflix

Historical Films dealing with racism:

- **Selma-1965**
Period film focused on the direct action of the civil rights movement and the non-violent actions of Martin Luther. This movie is free to stream online

- **Marshall---2017—written by Michael and Jacob Koskoff.**
An American biographical legal drama.
In 1940, Thurgood Marshall is an NAACP lawyer traveling the country defending people of color who are wrongly accused of crimes because of racial prejudice. He is sent to Conn. To defend a chauffeur accused of rape and attempted murder by his white employer. He teams up with a local Jewish lawyer Sam Friedman, who's never handled a criminal case. They build a case while enduring racist and anti-Semitic views.
Movie available on Hulu, Sling, Amazon Prime, You Tube, Vudu and Google Play Movies and TV.

- **Good Trouble-2020- Documentary**
Rep John Louis (D-Ga) fights for civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health care reform and immigration. Watch on CNN.

Raquel Gates, in Her book “Double Negative: The Black Image and Popular Culture.” Emphasizes that we need to watch films by black film makers to really understand black culture. Below are two films by black film makers.

The Hate U Give 2018 -George Tillman Director. Screen Play, Audrea Wells. A Teenager is constantly switching between two worlds.-The poor black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Watch Movie on: YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, Google -Play movie, and TV. 3.99

Moonlight 2016, Barry Jenkins, Director , Screenplay Barry Jenkins, and Tarell Alvin McCraney Academy Award-winning picture shows the grief and trauma of black men through an entirely different lens then police brutality, while also highlighting the black LGBTQ community. Watch Movie on Netflix subscription, Amazon Prime Video, YouTube, Vudu, Google-Play

