

Racism, Justice & Equality

Open Wide Your Hearts 

Santa Teresa Parish Social Action Ministry

Invites You To Participate In An 8-Week

Series on Racism, Justice and Equality Virtually

Wednesday, August 12th to September 23rd

6:45 pm to 8:45 pm

Observing the unprecedented level of protests demanding racial equality, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, Santa Teresa Parish Social Action Ministry is calling all Catholic Christians to educate ourselves about racism. Our parish will be offering an 8-week program beginning **August 12th at 6:45 pm via Zoom**, based on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' Document: *"Open Wide Your Hearts"* addressing racism and the need to eliminate it. Each session will be about an hour and a half, and offer opportunities to learn, ask questions, share experiences, pray, sing, hear scripture and reflect.

The Most Rev. William E. Lori the Archbishop of Baltimore said recently "To be sure, the words, *"Black Lives Matter"* mean different things to different people. Nonetheless, those same words should resonate with us as Catholics and indeed with all those who embrace the principles of Catholic social teaching. More than that, they should spur us on to action. By its nature, the church's social teaching is not a mere statement of principle or policy but more a summons to heal the wounds of sin and division and to take up anew the task of building a society that is a civilization of truth and love. This we must do as a church community in partnership with others. Catholic schools and Catholic social services play a critical role, as do our parishes, in the cities and beyond. With the church's social teaching as our guide, let us, as a Catholic community, build bridges of understanding so that we can say in wisdom, truth and love, that *"Black Lives Matter."*

Racism is not easy for most of us to talk about, know what to say about it and, to be truthful, even want to talk about it at all. We aim to make this series a safe place to explore our thoughts, attitudes and emotions and faith beliefs about this touchy subject. We urge you to seriously consider joining us as we begin this faith journey.

We invite you to join this faith based and safe conversation, please email lynda@santateresachurch.com.