

Continuing the Conversation – Building a Racially Just Parish
Our Lady of the Lake Parish
Meeting of September 21, 2021

The first meeting via Zoom to continue the conversation toward building a racially just parish took place on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

There were 15 participants including two from Our Lady of Assumption Church in Claremont, CA. After Deacon Denny Duffell offered an opening prayer, every participant introduced themselves, identified their parish and shared what they want to do at these monthly meetings. There was a keen interest in starting to take visible actions, continuing our education on Anti-Racism by reading and discussing books, on-line resources or other media sources, listening to Parishioners of Color to learn specific needs, and seeing more visible endorsement from Parish and School leadership on Anti-Racism.

Information was shared with the group on key terms, Racism, Anti-Racism and White Privilege, to set a common understanding. Background information for the group to consider in taking actions included the 18 recommendations made by 97 parishioners in response to a survey on this topic in April/May 2021, and the 80 ideas (clustered in 10 categories) reported by the Break-Out Groups in attendance at the August 28, 2021 event “Beginning the Conversation – Building a Racially Just Parish” with our guest speaker, Mr. Isaac Chandler, National Council Chair, Pax Christi USA.

The Break-Out Groups at the August 28, 2021 event were comprised of approximately 70 participants (combination of in-person and via Zoom). Among them were representatives from Our Lady of the Lake, Seattle, WA, St Elizabeth Ann Seton in Bothell, WA, St Joseph, Holy Names Academy, St. Luke, St. Anne, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Matthew, St. Leo, St. Benedict, South Seattle - from CCS, St James Cathedral, Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center (IPJC), Our Lady of Assumption in Claremont, CA and St. Augustine Parish in Los Angeles, CA

The majority of comments from the Break-Out Groups fell in two categories: Parish Actions – 34 and Education – 22. The remaining categories are Positive Behaviors: 11, Liturgy: 6, History: 4, Political Action: 3, Language: 2, Listening: 2, Parish Newsletter: 2 and Terminology: 2.

Deacon Denny Duffell offered to work with two smaller groups to review, recommend and initiate action in the Parish Actions and Education categories.

- Three participants joined the group working with Deacon Denny Duffell on Parish Actions.
- Three different participants volunteered to join the group working with Deacon Denny Duffell on Education Actions.

Two participants will prepare a Diversity Calendar to share with the Parish for publishing in the Parish Newsletter. The preliminary calendar of Anti-Racism events being planned by St. Luke's Parish were shared with the group as an example of opportunities for cross-parish participation.

In order to expand participation from individuals who have commitments on Tuesday evenings, the group agreed to change the meeting dates to the third Monday of the month.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, October 18, 2021 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Closing Prayer – Prayer for Hispanic Heritage Month

God of all peoples and nations, *Dios de todo el mundo* —

We praise you for your creativity made manifest in the gifts of tribes, ethnicities and cultures across the world. Each one bears your mark of goodness and grace.

We especially praise you and thank you for your children with Hispanic heritage – the descendants of Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

We find you in the beauty of their art, the joy of their song and their commitment to *la comunidad* – community.

We hear you in their call for a more just world – one of solidarity and liberation. We know you better because of the witness of their faith, may their faith and ours be bound together by your love in *convivimiento* – *conviviality* — that spirit of unity, respect and empathy for which there is no substitute.

Keep all those with Hispanic heritage in your care, hold them in your love and make us fierce advocates and allies for welcome, inclusion and the common good.

We pray with *Nuestra Señora de* – *Our Lady of* - *Guadalupe*, patroness of all the Americas.

Amen.