Daily Prayers for combating Racism

SUNDAY

From the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities - those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

MONDAY

From the Mennonite Church USA

Lament
by Clara Weybright

God, we lament the damage that our silence in the face of racial violence has done, for the sins of racism that run through our lives like so many threads in a cloth.

Forgive us for the times we have given in to our discomfort, for the times we have forgotten our own privilege and failed to stand with our black siblings.

Help those of us who experience white privilege every day remember that, with our privilege, we are imbued with the responsibility to challenge and hold one another accountable.

Give us the courage to educate ourselves to listen well, and to use our voices when it is needed most.

TUESDAY

From the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Lord, you suffered at human hands the pain of false arrest, torture, and unjust punishment, and you commanded us to comfort those in prison. Build a fire in your people, Lord, that we may never learn patience with prejudice or make peace with oppression, but that we may burn with zeal for justice, proportion, and equal protections under law for all people. In the Name of him who died condemned." Amen.
WEDNESDAY

*From the United Methodist Church, Western Pennsylvania Conference*

Lord Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries of Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Amen.

THURSDAY

*From the Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Gracious God, we thank you for the human family filled with all the peoples of the earth. We are thankful that you have created such an amazing and wonderful diversity of people and cultures. We pray that you will enrich our lives with ever-widening circles of fellowship, so that we may discover your presence in those who differ from us.

Deliver us from the bondage of racism that denies the humanity of some people, and deprives all people of the blessings of the diversity you have created; deliver us from assumptions that we make without thinking, and presumptions that we take without asking. Lord in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Bless and strengthen each effort we make as individuals when we seek to understand ourselves and others as well as the ways we benefit from personal privilege and power, so that we may be allies who challenge bias and prejudice within ourselves and others. Lord in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Bless and strengthen each effort we make to change the systems and structures of our schools and educational institutions; our politics and civic policies; and our economic institutions’ methods and models; so that the roots of racism may be recognized and purged from among us. Lord in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

O God of unconditional love, look with compassion on our nation. Break down the walls that separate us from one another. Cast out the spirit of violence that afflicts so many. Cleanse us of malicious ideas and ideologies. Unite us in bonds of love like unto your own. And through all our struggle for justice, work within us to accomplish your purpose and establish your kingdom vision. Lord in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

FRIDAY

*From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

*Wake Me Up Lord*

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me.

Keep watch over my heart Lord,
and remove from me any barriers to your grace,  
that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters. 
Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give 
services of justice and peace. 
Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory. 
And finally, remind us Lord that you said, 
“blessed are the peacemakers, 
for they shall be called children of God.”
Amen

SATURDAY

From the Church of the Nazarene
A Personal Confession Regarding Race
  My heart honestly aches for every precious soul that is feeling faint, fearful, furious, or 
  forgotten - simply and profoundly - because of the color of your skin. You are created in the 
  image of Almighty God, so you are surely purposefully and wonderfully made as pleasing in His 
  eyes. Yet you hurt, and your pain is deep in my heart. I want to begin by asking for your 
  forgiveness when my silence has added to your pain.
  While I don’t pretend to comprehend your experiences in life, I want to lean in prayerfully 
  and listen carefully until I comprehend your story more completely.
  I cannot know the devastating weight of your unique sorrows, the deep throbbing of your 
  personal pain or the undeniable challenge of your daily hope. Nevertheless, I know Jesus 
  already cares deeply for you, and He also knows that I truly want to care more and more and 
  more for you, too.
  Please pray for me to ultimately understand more fully your feelings and to respond 
  rightly to your reality. Pray that my actions will be compassionate from your perspective and my 
  attitudes will be encouraging to our soul.
  Finally, please forgive me if my words do not yet come close enough to being absolutely 
  believable to you. Pray that my life lived over the long-haul will be the greatest convincer that I 
  have what I have written is also written on my heart.
  Now, I pray for you, that you will know your life truly matters more than mere words could 
  adequately explain or actually contain. You really are precious in His sight and in mine. In the 
  Name of Jesus. Amen.