

Schedule for Eight Days of Prayer

Monday, January 18, 2021 Day 2

We Pray for an Racial Justice as we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

Let us pray:

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

An Examine for Racial Justice:

- Have I fully loved God and fully loved my neighbor as myself?
- Have I caused pain to others by my actions or my words that offended my brother or my sister?
- Have I done enough to inform myself about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and contemporary manifestations? Have I opened my heart to see how unequal access to economic opportunity, jobs, housing, and education on the basis of skin color, race, or ethnicity, has denied and continues to deny the equal dignity of others?
- Is there a root of racism within me that blurs my vision of who my neighbor is?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and I did or said nothing, leaving the victim to address their pain alone?
- Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism with me inflicting the pain, acting opposite of love of God and love of neighbor?
- Have I ever lifted up and aided a person who “fell victim” to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and paid a price for extending mercy to the other? How did I react? Did my faith grow? Am I willing to grow even more in faith through my actions?

by [To Go Forth](#) – a blog from the USCCB, Department of Justice, Peace & Human Development - inspired by Pope Francis.

.A Prayer for Racial Justice

When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial injustice,

Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.

When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,

Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.

When we try our best but say the wrong things,

Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.

When the chaos of this dies down,

Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.

When it becomes easier to point fingers outward,

Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.

God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.

God of love, in your mercy, Forgive Us.

God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.

Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.

Racism breaks your heart,

break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord.

*O God, who shows a father's care for all, grant, in your mercy, that the
members of the human race,*

to whom you have given a single origin,

may form in peace a single family

and always be united by a fraternal spirit.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever.