

## **Novena for an End to Racism**

### **Prayer to the Most Holy Trinity**

Heavenly Father, you so loved the world that you sent us our only begotten Son as our Redeemer. The Holy Spirit rested upon your Beloved Son as he preached the Good News, cured the sick, and gave his life to break down each sinful barrier that separates us from you and from one another. With your Son, O Father, you sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church that she might extend your saving truth and love to every race and nation.

So it is that we praise you, O Glorious Trinity, One God in Three Persons, united in one Divine Nature yet distinct in each Person — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As you are united in one Divine Nature, we ask you to bring together in your love all whom hatred and racism have separated. Pour your love into our hearts, that we may speak the truth boldly and in a spirit of charity, and labor unceasingly for justice, peace and reconciliation in our divided nation and world. O Father, source of every blessing, O Son, Radiant Truth, O Spirit of Love, enable us to respect and love those who are different from ourselves and remove from our hearts, our homes, our Church, and our society every trace of racism.

Grant us, in your mercy, renewed and lasting resolve 'to mend our ways, to encourage one another, to agree with one another, and to live in peace.' (cf. 2 Cor 13:11) Grant us the wisdom to create a civilization of truth, Justice and love, worthy of your Kingdom. Then we shall know that you are truly with us, O God of life, truth and love, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

(From the Knights of Columbus)

### **Reading from Scripture: Luke 10:25-37**

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### **Examination of Conscience**

Let us examine our conscience in light of the sin of racism, asking ourselves:

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?

I recognize that racism manifests in my own individual thoughts, attitudes, actions, and inactions. It also manifests in social structures and unjust systems that perpetuate centuries of racial injustice. For my individual actions and my participation in unjust structures, I seek forgiveness and move towards reconciliation. I look into my heart and ask for the will and the strength to help contribute to the healing of racism in my time.

(From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

### **Act of Contrition**

Let us pray the Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

### **Prayer to Overcome Racism**

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other. We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another. We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society. We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person. Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen. (From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

### **Litany of St. Martin de Porres**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Pray for us. (repeat after each line)

St. Martin de Porres,

Ever in the presence of God,

Faithful servant of Christ,

Lover of the Holy Eucharist,

Devoted to our Blessed Mother,

Spiritual patron of Americas,

Honored son of St. Dominic,

Lover of the Most Holy Rosary,

Apostle of mercy,

Protector of the tempted and repentant,

Helper of souls in doubt and darkness,

Compassionate to the sorrowful and afflicted,

Consoler of the discouraged and unfortunate,

Peacemaker in all discords,

Touched by all suffering,  
Comforter of the sick and dying,  
Worker of miraculous cures,  
Guardian of the homeless child,  
Humbly hiding God-given powers,  
Devoted to holy poverty,  
Model of obedience,  
Lover of heroic penance,  
Strong in self-denial,  
Performing menial tasks with holy ardor,  
Gifted with prophecy,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, St. Martin, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray, O God, who did make St. Martin, your confessor, to enter the heavenly Kingdom, grant through his merits and intercession that we may so follow the example of his humility on earth as to deserve to be exalted with him in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
(From the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia)