

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Recommits to Addressing Racism



In the presence of constant and painful reminders of the deep roots of racism in our country, we, the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph join with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in committing to the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice – particularly racism – and our own complicity as congregations, and to work to effect systemic change as we struggle to ensure immigrant rights, promote non-violence, and protect Earth and its biosphere.

We pledge prayer, education, and advocacy and commit to using our collective voice, resources, and power in collaboration with others to establish justice, which reflects God's abundant love and desire that all may have life.

Actions We Can Take:

- Use opportunities to become better acquainted with persons of different races by reading books by authors of other races, participating in discussion groups, and sharing in cultural celebrations, events, and interfaith activities.
- Write letters to the editor when you perceive racial bias in reporting.
- For people who are white, reflect on the attitudes and behaviors that influence your relationship with people of color.
- Examine policies, procedures, and practices at your workplace, organizations, and institutions and encourage them to value diversity.
- Speak up when you witness discrimination against others. Do not engage in or tolerate racial slurs and jokes.
- Vote for candidates who make ending racism and all discrimination a priority.

Prayer:

God of love and mercy, touch our hearts and call on us to acknowledge and respect the "dear neighbor" in our midst. We pray for openness in our hearts to reject racism and all discrimination against our sisters and brothers. Inspire us to be agents of unity who embrace those who cross our paths with love and acceptance.

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The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at LePuy, France in 1650. Today there are approximately 4,203 vowed members as well as 3,032 associates and 25 agrégées in the United States. Worldwide there are over 10,749 Sisters of Saint Joseph and 4,399 associates in over 50 countries.