



Anti-Racism Lenten Calendar 2011

Daily Scriptures and Reflections

This calendar invites you during Lent to start your personal Anti-Racist Journal. Start each day with a scriptural reading followed by journaling your thoughts to each day's quotes, reflections, and questions. Words that are underlined are defined in the supplement titled **Glossary of Terms**.

MARCH 9-19: Invite, People of Color (POC) to reflect about the power Racism has over them and White People to reflect about the power Racism has to maintain power and privilege for the white society.

Ash Wednesday

Day of Fast & Abstinence

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 *Jesus through the book of Matthew teaches us how to exercise Charity, Prayer and Fasting.*

9

Sometimes in exercising our stand against racism we want the whole world to know that we are one of the good ones.

How could you exercise your stand against racism in the way that Jesus teaches us to exercise Charity, Prayer and Fasting?

Thursday

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 “..take up your cross every day, and follow me”

10

We don't choose to be born white or a person of color. This is part of God's plan. We are not asked to carry someone else's cross, we are to carry our own.

Do you embrace at all times who you are (white or POC)? Why? Or Why not? Write your answers in your journal. Be honest with yourself.

Friday

Day of Abstinence

Isaiah 58:1-9a “The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the Chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice...”

11

Sometimes we are unaware of the chains in our lives which in turn oppress us and is a yoke of the injustice of racism in all of our lives.

For white people one of the chains of racism is “white privilege”. For people of color one of the chains of racism is “internalized racism”. These chains give us a false sense of our worth. Start to explore the chains that oppress you.

Saturday

Isaiah 58:9b-14 “Your people will rebuild what has long been in ruins, building again on the old foundations.”

12

Yesterday, you were invited to explore the chains that oppress you, either “white privilege” if you are white or “internalized racism” if you are a person of color.

Share what you explored with someone who is able to relate with your chains, together you could start to rebuild your true God given worth.

Sunday

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus quotes the Torah in resistance to Satan's temptations. Jesus was very grounded in his Jewish heritage.

13

Jesus was not ashamed of his heritage. One of the damaging aspects of Racism is that we at times might feel ashamed of our heritage.

Try to identify those aspects of your heritage which you feel ashamed about within the conversation of Racism in this country. Write them down.

Monday

Leviticus 19: 1-2,11-18 "...love your neighbors as you love yourself..."

In order to love others we first have to love ourselves. We have to learn to accept the good and bad things about our identity. Yesterday you identified certain aspects of your identity. Do you embrace these with love?

14

Embracing these with love is not saying you condone them. Take yesterday's list and lift it up to God and ask him to help you to embrace these with his type of love.

Tuesday

Matthew 6:7-15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.

When racism plays out not only is the victim harmed but the oppressor is also harmed as well; it is then that forgiveness becomes a difficult task to accomplish.

15

We all have been affected in one form or another by racism. Ask God to help you to exercise forgiveness where needed.

Wednesday

Luke 11:29-32 A Demand for a Miracle

When asking God to help us to dismantle racism from our lives, it becomes much easier to ask God for a miracle than for us to work at the miracle.

16

Rather than asking God for the miracle to dismantle racism from our lives, let us ask God to give us the strength to work on dismantling racism in our lives.

Thursday

Matthew 7:7-12 Ask, Seek, and Knock

Tuesday's Gospel tells us how to pray. Yesterday's Gospel tells us about what people sometimes pray for. Today's Gospel tells us about what we should do!

17

"Do for others what you want them to do for you:" is not an easy thing to do when confronting racism. Ask, seek, or knock so that you could act according to the Law of Moses.

Friday

Day of Abstinence

Matthew 5:20-26 Teaching about Anger

There are times one cannot help but feel anger towards individuals acting out in ways that are racist or their role in institutional racism.

18

Ask God to help you find it in your heart to overcome the anger you feel and to mend any wrong doing you did in reaction to the anger.

Saturday

Matthew 1:16,18-21, 24a Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Joseph was a good person. But in spite of this, he was hesitant not to marry Mary because she was pregnant.

19

At times racism disgraces people. Do you avoid being associated with them, or are you willing to stand by their side through the disgrace?

Glossary of Terms



Race—A political term used to classify groups of people based on skin color, name, or physical characteristics. It is interesting to note that there is no established scientific definition of race. *The meaning of race changes over time and in relation to power.*

Racism—equals the misuse of power by systems and institutions.

Anti-racism—A conscious intentional effort to eradicate racism in all its forms—*individual, cultural and institutional.*

People of Color —The term “People of Color” is a political organizing term used strategically to combat systemic and institutional racism. It is a term that is commonly accepted and used by people from Asia, Africa and North, South and Central America who **self-identify based upon their lived experience, family and history.** *Because race has no real biological or natural basis, the term “People of Color” is understood in relation to people of European heritage as those groups of people from Asia, Africa and the Americas (regardless of skin color) who were historically colonized and dominated by European nations.*

White People—The term “White People” is a political term used strategically to make race a more decisive issue than culture in distinguishing people’s identities. It is a term that is commonly used to describe groups of people or their descendants who are of European Ancestry.

White Privilege—Refers to the reality that in U.S. society “there are opportunities which are afforded whites that people of color simply do not share.” “Regardless of an individual’s desires, and ‘invisible package of unearned assets’ is enjoyed by white people because of the racial consciousness that is subtly pervasive in our social customs and institution.”

Individual or Internalized Racism—Individual or internalized racism lies within *individuals.* These are private manifestations of racism that resides inside the individual.

Sunday	Mark 15:21 <i>Eight Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross</i>
10	How many times in this year did you volunteer some of your time to work with a group or organization the works toward racial justice? Are you open to volunteer? Lord, grant me a willing spirit that I may be your instrument on earth.
Monday	Luke 23:27-31 <i>Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.</i>
11	The actions of Racism diminishes a person's humanity. This could create a baggage that is destructive. Therefore, like with a lost one has to allow one's self to mourn this created baggage in order to overcome it. Lord, grant me a gentle spirit that I may comfort those who mourn.
Tuesday	Luke 23:33-34 <i>Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified</i>
12	Within the conversation of racism we have victims and oppressors. The truth is that racism destroys us all; therefore, we are all victims. Lord, grant me a merciful heart that I may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.
Wednesday	Luke 23:39-43 <i>Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief.</i>
13	Working to dismantle racism within an institution is something that requires perseverance. Lord, grant me perseverance that I may never stop seeking you.
Thursday	John 19:25-27 <i>Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple.</i>
14	Taking a stand against racism sometimes requires us to take a stand that is unpopular or with someone whose issue is controversial with an institution's norms. Lord, grant me constancy that I may be willing to stand by those in need.
Friday Day of Abstinence	Luke 23:44-46 <i>Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross</i>
15	The vision of an anti-racist society is one that is transformed into being fully inclusive, some call this heaven. Until this day comes, how do YOU vision TO BE like? Lord, grant me trust in you that when my time on earth is ended my spirit may come to you without delay.
Saturday	Matthew 27:57-60 <i>Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb</i>
16	What Joseph did for Jesus is very different from today's concept of charity. The true meaning of "charity" derives from the latin word "caritas" meaning selfless "love", as of God for man and man for God; human compassion for one's neighbor; equivalent of Greek <i>agapē</i> . Lord, grant me your compassion that I may always provide for those in need.

March 20-26:	The following reflections are quotes from less popular individuals from a "Cloud of Witnesses" which is a list of individuals that have worked for racial justice. We invite you to learn more about their lives and share your learning with someone else.
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9 <i>The transfiguration of Jesus.</i>
20	"We are all put on this earth to leave this world a better place for our having been here." - Minoru Yasui Like in today's Gospel, we too have a purpose being on earth. What role will you play to dismantle racism in your place of work?
Monday	Luke 6:36-38 <i>"The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you."</i>
21	"We demand an amnesty for the workers who have made the wealth of this country possible. Amnesty is not a gift, but a right, for those who have contributed so much." - Bert Corona The situation of undocumented workers in this country is not new and is another form of racism. What measures do you use to bring justice for this group of people?
Tuesday	Matthew 23:1-12 <i>Jesus Warns against the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees</i>
22	"It does not require many words to speak the truth." - Chief Joseph Actions do speak louder than words. What actions do you exercise daily that reflect your stand against racism?
Wednesday	Matthew 20:17-28 <i>"If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest;.."</i>
23	"You can't start a movement, but you can prepare for one." - Vincent Harding Dr. King like Vincent Harding knew that they had to prepare themselves for movements, they did this by being a servant of racial justice. How are you a servant of racial justice?
Thursday	Jeremiah 17:5-10 <i>"I treat each of them according to the way they live, according to what they do."</i>
24	"How do you know when you have done enough?" - Msgr. Jack Egan Msgr. Egan is someone that didn't rest in his work for racial justice he trusted the Lord, like Jeremiah tells us to trust the Lord. Journal your answer to today's quote.
Friday Day of Abstinence	Hebrews 10:4-10 <i>"..we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."</i>
25	"Freedom is an internal achievement rather than an external adjustment." -Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Being a martyr does not equate to being anti-racist, rather being anti-racist is being able to open your mind to another side of things.
Saturday	Micah 7:14-15,18-20 <i>Let them go and feed in the rich pastures of Bashan and Gilead, as they did long ago.</i>
26	"The road to freedom must be uphill, even if it is arduous and frustrating." - Andrew Goodman The road for racial justice could at times be arduous and frustrating. Reflect upon today's reading. How could you apply it to your journey for racial justice?

March

March 27-April 2: The following reflections' are designed to spend some time to dissect the definition of racism. Read the definition found at the end of this guide each day this week.

Sunday John 4:5-42 *"Someone plants, someone else reaps."*
27 Segregation was the law of the land from 1896 through 1954, this is what has been planted in our country's institutions. Our institutions are still reaping 58 years of segregation.
Was the institution you work for or represented created before 1954? If so did it operate according to the laws prior to 1954? How did it operate?

Monday Luke 4:24-30 *"..prophets are never welcomed in their hometown."*
28 Yesterday's exercise is not an easy thing to do. But if you love something, you want it to be its best. You also have to constructively criticize it to help it be its best!
In what ways will it be hard to be an anti-racism prophet within the institution you work for or represent?

Tuesday Matthew 18:21-35 *The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant*
29 A note written from freed slave to his former owner: I promise to pray for you everyday, ask your forgiveness, grant you the same, and be your friend always. -Wendle P. Wright
Today's reflection is based on *The Grace Card* movie, which is about the power of forgiveness. Learn more about this movie by logging on to TheGraceCardMovie.com.

Wednesday Matthew 5:17-19 *Teaching about the law.*
30 Within the creation of an institution rules, bylaws, and procedures are created in order for the institution to function according to the founders' values and beliefs.
Take a look into the value and beliefs of your institution's past leaders and founders. Is this a diversified group? If not, how would the institution be different if it was a

Thursday Jeremiah 7:23-28 *"I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets."*
31 Despite our country's past racial justice prophets, we have to understand that racism has to do with a collective.
Re-read the definition of racism. Does addressing racism collectively make sense? Who forms the collective? What could a collective do?

Friday Mark 12:28-34 *"...love your neighbor as yourself..."*
Day of Abstinence
1 We need to be aware that we are constantly being shaped by the social institutions in our culture.
What are your favorite TV shows? What are roles and depictions of white people and POC? How are these shows shaping you in light of today's Gospel?

Saturday Luke 18:9-14 *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*
2 There are times that despite how good-hearted we believe we are, there is a danger for us to start praying like the Pharisee.
Who do you pray like? Like the Pharisee or the Tax Collector? What kind of racial harm could a "Pharisee" do within an institution?

April

April 3-16: The following days in part are based on the stations of the cross celebrated by Pope John Paul II in 1991. The daily reflections are an anti-racist inspiration based on the closing prayers of each day. A period of meditation should be observed between Scripture and the reflection.

Sunday Matthew 25:36-41 *First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane*
3 When we engage in Anti-Racism work we at many times think that our way is the right way and often close our minds to see God's will. When you find yourself in these moments ask God for his guidance and he will guide you.
Lord, grant me your strength and wisdom, that I may see to follow your will in all things.

Monday Mark 14:43-46 *Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested*
4 The process of finding our role in institutional racism is something we all could engage in doing. Does your role faithfully reflect the good news Jesus brings?
Lord grant me the courage of my convictions that my life may faithfully reflect the good news you bring.

Tuesday Luke 22:66-71 *Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin*
5 Taking a stand against racism at our place of work requires a lot of courage and is not easy work. Are you willing to take this stand today?
Lord, grant me your sense of righteousness that I may never cease working to bring about the justice of the kingdom that you promised.

Wednesday Matthew 26:69-75 *Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter*
6 In dismantling racism within our institutions we at times have to face some truths that are difficult to accept and it requires us to be honest with justice.
Lord, grant me the gift of honesty that I may not fear the truth even when difficult.

Thursday Mark 15:1-5,15 *Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate.*
7 Seeing life through an anti-racism lens is not a simple task and cannot be done alone. We need to be in relationship with people that are different to see things from a different perspective.
Lord, grant me discernment that I may see as you see, not as the world sees.

Friday John 19:1-3 *Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns*
Day of Abstinence
8 Racism in this country makes us of us oppressors, victims and at times both. Racism harms everyone. In what way do you experience pain or suffering?
Lord, grant me patience in times of suffering that I may offer my life as a sacrifice of praise.

Saturday John 19:6, 15-17 *Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross*
9 Revisit your reflection for March 10. What is your progress with March 10's task? Do you need some help from God to take on this task? Ask him for help.
Lord, grant me the strength of purpose that I may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

April