

AN ANTI-RACISM LITANY

Repeat after each line: **“We need to create an anti-racist church.”**

As long as any of our churches remain closed or resistant to invite, welcome and embrace people of different races and ethnicities...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as hiring and appointing ‘a satisfactory minimum of’ qualified people of color to decision-making and other positions in our parishes, schools and pastoral center is done out of tokenism...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as qualified persons of color seeking a position as principal or teacher comes against a ‘need not apply’ attitude in any school in the Archdiocese...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as key lay and priest advisory bodies- Finance Committee, Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Presbyteral Council, Priests’ Placement Board and Consultors- do not reflect the proportionate diversity of laity and priests in the Archdiocese...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as racial and ethnic slurs are directed at children on our athletic courts, fields and playgrounds...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as any teacher in our schools feel the need to ‘lighten up’ or ‘tough up’ on children because of their color...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

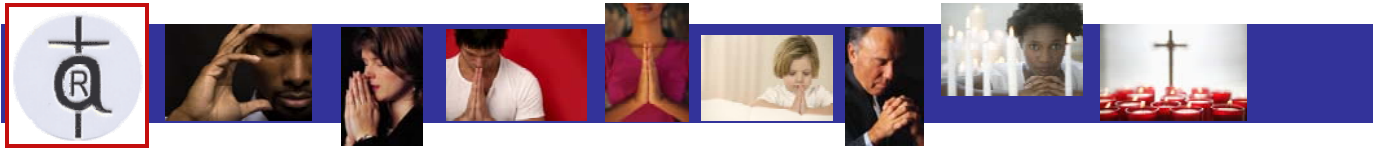
As long as studies in our schools do not include the experiences and achievements of people of color...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

As long as parish celebrations do not reflect the diversity of foods reflected in the cultures of its parishioners...

“We need to create an anti-racist church.”

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As long as parish celebrations of Mass in Spanish, Polish and other languages are relegated to church or school basements...

"We need to create an anti-racist church."

As long as liturgical celebrations in any of our churches do not reflect respect for the cultural diversity of its parishioners...

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As long as priests coming from different countries, and priests of different racial and ethnic backgrounds born in the U.S., lack the necessary supports to be accepted and integrate well into parish life and presbyteral collegiality...

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As long as parish-sharing relationships reflect only monetary, one way sharing...

"We need to create an anti-racist church."

As long as our evangelization efforts rule out reaching out to black people because we assume "most black people are Baptists," or to Hispanic people because "they'll want Mass in Spanish"...

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As long as our churches and schools see no need to learn about and to celebrate the cultures of our parishioners and neighbors...

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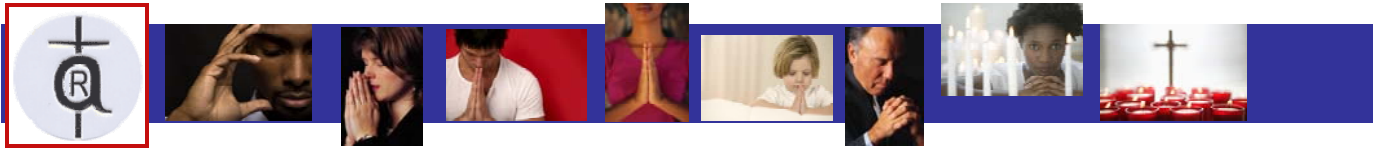
As long as our parishes and people see no need to work against discrimination in housing, healthcare, education and jobs...

"We need to create an anti-racist church."

As long as any Catholic who claims to be a disciple of Jesus Christ cannot look into the eyes of a person of color and see a brother or sister they would embrace, share peace with, and accompany on their faith journey...

"We need to create an anti-racist church."

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God of all peoples, you created man and woman in an array of colors mirroring the promised covenant rainbow at the end of the great flood.
The human race has its beginnings in Africa. Adam and Eve, our first parents, were created out of the rich clay soil of Africa;
Abraham and Sarah, our great ancestors in faith, were people of color;
as was Mary and Jesus, your son.

St. Vincent de Paul was a priest, white in skin color, who cared for the poor and abandoned;
Blessed Kateri Tekawitha was a Native princess red in skin color;
St. Juan Diego was a young man dark brown in skin color;
St. Andre Kim Taegon was a Korean martyr yellow in skin color;
St. Katherine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of Blessed Sacrament,
a white woman of privilege, dedicated her life to being a mother to the downtrodden of our nation who were Native and African American.
Many saints of your Church mirror the diversity of that rainbow:
black, white, brown, red, and yellow.
We are made in an incredible array of colors captured in the mystery and wonder of being made in Your image and likeness.

God of unity, help us to appreciate our differences.
Help us not be color blind, but to appreciate and learn from
the great spectrum of languages, traditions and characteristics
that each race and ethnic group celebrates in themselves.
Help us to build rather than tear down.
Help us to grow in the knowledge of others,
for such knowledge can only deepen our bond with You.
Give us the courage and the strength to risk
a word, a gesture, a hand
in fellowship with all people
in order to build an anti-racist church,
a church which stands against those who seek to divide,
a church which longs for union with You.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

AMEN