

## Resource Guide: Catholicism, Christianity and Racism

As Catholics, we firmly believe that we are all brothers and sisters, created equally in the image of God. Racism is sinful violation of this truth that divides the human family. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops speak of racism as a “. . . persistent form of evil . . . that still infects our nation today.” The Church, clear in her resolve to root out this evil, invites Catholics to actively engage in racial justice through personal conversion and civic and social systemic reform. To assist Catholics in this work, the following resource list has been compiled. In addition to Church documents, this list features Black Catholic theologians and writers as well as others who teach about the legacy of racism in our country and our particular faith communities.

### General (non-religious) Texts on Racism:

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.* Michelle Alexander (New Press, 2020)
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism.* Robin DiAngelo (Beacon Press, 2018)
- *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* Michael Eric Dyson (St. Martin's Press, 2017)
- *How to be an Antiracist.* Ibram X. Kendi (One World, 2019)
- *When they Call you a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir.* Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele (St. Martin's Griffin, 2020)
- *So You Want to Talk about Race.* Ijeoma Oluo (Seal Press, 2019)
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.* Bryan Stevenson (One World, 2015)

### Church Documents and Statements About Racism:

- [Statement of U.S. Bishops' President on George Floyd and the Protests in American Cities](#)
- ["Open Wide Our Hearts: A Pastoral Letter Against Racism" \(USCCB\)](#)
- [Pope Francis on the Death of George Floyd](#)
- [Cardinal Blase Cupich: "It's time for a national reconciliation"](#)
- [Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley on the killing of George Floyd](#)
- [Archbishop Gregory on the death of George Floyd](#)
- [Night Will Be No More: A Pastoral Letter to the People of God in El Paso](#)
- [USCCB Tools for Combating Racism](#)

### Racial Justice and Catholicism:

- *A Cry for Justice: Daniel R. Rudd and his Life in Black Catholicism, Journalism, and Activism, 1854-1933.* Gary B. Agee (University of Arkansas Press, 2007)
- *Daniel Rudd: Calling a Church to Justice.* Gary B. Agee (Liturgical Press, 2017)
- *Dancing With God: The Trinity from a Womanist Perspective.* Karen Baker-Fletcher (Chalice Press, 2007)
- *The New Orleans Sisters of the Holy Family: African American Missionaries to the Garifuna of Belize.* Edward T. Brett

- *Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: The Rise of Black Catholicism in the Great Migration* . Matthew Cressler (New York University Press, 2017)
- *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* . Cyprian Davis (Herder & Herder, 1995)
- *Fugitive Saints: Catholicism and the Politics of Slavery*.\_Katie Grimes (Fortress Press, 2017)
- *No Crystal Stair: Womanist Spirituality*. Diana L. Hayes (Orbis, 2016)
- *Taking Down Our Harps: Black Catholics in the United States*. Diana L. Hayes and Cyprian Davis (Orbis, 1998)
- *Shoes That Fit Our Feet: Sources for a Constructive Black Theology*. Dwight N. Hopkins (Orbis, 1993)
- *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*. Bryan N. Massingale (Orbis, 2010)
- *Persons of Color and Religious at the Same Time: The Oblate Sisters of Providence, 1828-1860*. Diane Batts Morrow
- *Thea Bowman: Faithful and Free*. Maurice J. Nutt (Liturgical Press, 2019)
- *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*\_M. Shawn Copeland (Fortress Press, 2020)
- *Knowing Christ Crucified: The Witness of African American Religious Experience*. M. Shawn Copeland (Orbis, 2018)
- *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience*. edited by M. Shawn Copeland (Orbis, 2009)

#### **Racial Justice and Christianity:**

- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone (Orbis, 2013)
- *A Black Theology of Liberation* by James Cone (Orbis, 2010)
- *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and Justice of God* by Kelly Brown Douglas (Orbis, 2015)
- *Shoes That Fit Our Feet: Sources for a Constructive Black Theology* by Dwight N. Hopkins (Orbis, 1993)
- *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* by Willie James Jennings (Yale University Press, 2011)
- *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman (Beacon Press, 1996)

#### **Articles and Interviews (US Catholic):**

- *Reckoning: White sisters respond to their own racism, to one historian's call for Justice* Dawn Araujo-Hawkins (US Catholic)
- *Black Lives, Black Power, and Black Catholics*. Matthew J. Cressler (US Catholic)
- *The History of Black Catholics in America* Matthew J. Cressler (US Catholic)
- *The Priest who channeled Black Power into the Catholic Church* Matthew J. Cressler (US Catholic)
- *Catholics of Color are Keeping the U.S. Catholic Church Alive*. Mary C. Curtis (US Catholic)
- *The Catholic Church and Antiracism*. Interview with Katie Grimes (US Catholic)
- *What Catholics Should Know About Raising White Kids*. U.S. Catholic interview with Jennifer Harvey
- *Race and the Church: A Change is Coming*. Diana Hayes

- [\*Let the Holy Spirit Guide How We Talk About Race.\*](#) Grace Ji-Sun Kim
- [\*How \(and how not\) to Address Racism in the Church.\*](#) U.S. Catholic interview with Simon Kim
- [\*Let's be a Church Where Black Lives Matter\*](#) Bryan Massingale
- [\*The Assumptions of White Privilege and What We Can Do About It.\*](#) Bryan Massingale
- [\*The Church's Appalling Silence On Racism.\*](#) Bryan Massingale
- [\*What Will it Take to Redeem the Soul of America?\*](#) Bryan Massingale
- [\*Sister Helen Prejean Says Check Your \(white\) Privilege.\*](#) U.S. Catholic interview with Sister Helen Prejean
- [\*Meet Father Bryan Massingale: A Black, gay, Catholic Priest Fighting for an Inclusive Church.\*](#) Olga Segura
- [\*El Paso's Bishop Mark Seitz: Black Lives Matter.\*](#) Bishop Mark J. Seitz
- [\*Black Theology and a Legacy of Oppression.\*](#) M. Shawn Copeland
- [\*Black Bodies, Kneeling, and the Liturgy.\*](#) by Eric T. Styles
- [\*Augustus Tolton: Pioneer Pastor\*](#) C. Vanessa White
- [\*Black History is Catholic History.\*](#) Shannen Dee Williams
- [\*Celebrating Unsung Black Catholic Women in U.S. History.\*](#) Shannen Dee Williams
- [\*The Black Catholic Nun every American Should Know.\*](#) Shannen Dee Williams

#### **Articles and Interviews (NCR):**

- [\*The Assumptions of White Privilege and What We Can Do About It.\*](#) Bryan Massingale
- [\*I Can't Breathe Because God Can't Breathe.\*](#) Anne Arabome
- [\*Will It Be Different This Time? Will We Face Our Racism?\*](#) Michael Sean Winters
- [\*When Will the US Bishops Address the Evil of Systemic Racism Head-on?\*](#) Dan Horan
- [\*We all must say 'Black Lives Matter'\*](#) Jamie Manson
- [\*Black in America: I am Tired.\*](#) Joseph A. Brown
- [\*My Generation Failed to Deal With Racism.\*](#) Thomas Reese
- [\*White People, Let's Do Our Homework.\*](#) Heidi Schlumpf

#### **Catholic Organizations Websites:**

- [\*The Black Catholic Initiative of the Archdiocese of Chicago\*](#)
- [\*Jesuits' Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation \(SHMR\) Project\*](#)
- [\*Knights of Peter Claver\*](#)
- [\*National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus\*](#)
- [\*National Black Sisters Conference\*](#)
- [\*The National Black Catholic Congress\*](#)