

# LOVE OUT LOUD

## NEWSLETTER

### *"Racism is an Evil Which Endures in Our Society and in Our Church."*

BY: EMILIO ALVAREZ, CAMPUS MINISTRY

The title of this section was the opening statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Racism (1979). It's a statement that was true then and continues to be true today. Racism **is** evil. Racism still affects the lives of our brothers and sisters of color. Racism has an impact on all aspects of society. As we have recently seen, even our community is impacted by the evil of racism. **WE MUST DO BETTER.** We must make ourselves uncomfortable to be able to root out racism in our very selves. It is required of us to do this so that others can live lives of dignity. As we wrestle with the consequences of the sin of racism, let us come together as a community to support all who affected by this terrible evil. And, let us do everything in our power to become instruments of peace for our brothers and sisters. I leave you with several sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These sections expand on the Church's teaching that *every form of discrimination must be eradicated from our society*. It is also followed by a quote from Austin Channing Brown. Channing's words may make us uncomfortable, but they are important to hear if we are to seek to create a world where everyone can live a life fully of dignity. Reflect on how you can begin to make a change within yourself, and then in the world.



#### 1929

Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man. The person represents the ultimate end of society, which is ordered to him:

What is at stake is the dignity of the human person, whose defense and promotion have been entrusted to us by the Creator, and to whom the men and women at every moment of history are strictly and responsibly in debt.

#### 1931

Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as 'another self,' above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity." No legislation could by itself do away with the fears, prejudices, and attitudes of pride and selfishness which obstruct the establishment of truly fraternal societies. Such behavior will cease only through the charity that finds in every man a "neighbor," a brother.

#### 1932

The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

#### 1935

The equality of men rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it:

**Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.**

*"...I come speak at your MLK celebration, and suddenly your niceness takes the form of shyness, frailness, an inability to know how to speak up, a feigned ignorance that allows you to believe that the reason you won't speak up is because you don't know how... when the core issue is that you don't want to speak up because you know it will cost you. If you really want to be in solidarity with Black people, it's time to answer the question: What are you afraid of? Release all the bullshit answers about your own frailty, and get honest. Your hands are dirty."*

--Austin Channing Brown, "Dear Nice White People"

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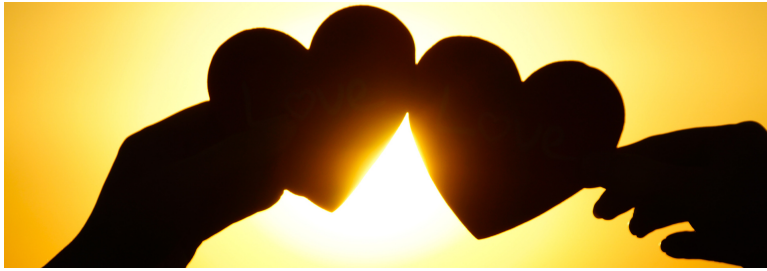
# Weekly Scripture & Reflection

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

*1 John 3:14-18*

BY PHOEBE "FIFI" RODRIGUEZ

One of my favorite authors, Victor Hugo, wrote “To love is to act.” That is the heart of this passage from 1 John. The first step in anti-racism is education—reading diverse authors, watching documentaries, attending lectures-- but I find myself all too eager to stop there, to reduce anti-racism to an intellectual exercise. When it comes time to call my senators, or to speak up at work, or even to have uncomfortable conversations with my family, all too often I freeze. Suddenly my focus becomes about my comfort in that moment rather than the work I want and need to do. As important as it is to educate myself, unfortunately, that knowledge cheapens in value if it stays in my head instead of manifesting in action. Intellectual work ultimately costs me nothing. I can write about anti-racism all I want, but the ultimate test of my commitment is the risk I am willing to take for my BIPOC brothers and sisters’ well-being. That can be the big risk of missing school or work to attend a protest, the financial sacrifice of a donation, or the small, excruciating experience of speaking up to those close to me. The author of this epistle speaks of the presence or absence of love (love as a verb) in terms of life and death. To act in love is to give love. And tragically, to act without love in our society can literally mean complicity in the death of people of color. With so much at stake, let those of us with privilege—those of us with “the world’s goods”-- be willing to risk what we have.



## *Intentions for the Week of Mar 7-Mar 13*

- This Monday, jury selection begins for the trial of Derek Chauvin, one of the officers involved in George Floyd’s murder. The trial is set to begin at the end of March. We pray for truth, justice, and compassion to rule in the hearts of the judge, jury, and all those involved in the case. We pray that the world would finally see justice for George Floyd.
- For the victims of racial discrimination, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds received, courage to advocate for change and for peace, and the grace to overcome hatred with love, we pray.
- For those who work for racial justice, that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love, we pray. We pray that they remain strong through the challenges that they face and that they continue to work towards the common good for all, especially those who have experienced racism.

## *A Closing Prayer*

FROM REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

When our eyes do not see the gravity of racial justice,  
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes, O Lord.  
When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,  
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.  
When we try our best but say the wrong things,  
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.  
When the chaos of this dies down,  
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.  
When it becomes easier to point fingers outwards,  
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.  
God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.  
God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.  
Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.  
Racism breaks your heart,  
break our hearts for what breaks yours, O Lord.  
Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship  
with one another and promised to dwell wherever two  
or three are gathered. In our community, we are many  
different people; we come from many different places,  
have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we  
may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the  
treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.