



STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE

My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

Pope Francis

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.

1 Corinthians 12:12 and 26

The Catholic Church proclaims that all human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

A Century of Catholic Social Teaching, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Our nation has been locked since its founding in a cycle of racism and the injustice it creates. Fr. Bryan Massingale calls racism a "soul sickness," and so it is. The sin of racism is pervasive – our Black, Native, Latinx and Asian brothers and sisters all bear its scars. There is, however, a particular legacy in America of racial injustice targeting Black men and women. Public policy is an essential part of the solution and still it alone is not enough. What is needed is a true conversion of heart. Change rarely comes quickly or easily so we must commit to the long haul.

Guardian Angels Catholic Community will speak and act against racism in all its forms and we stand in solidarity with others who raise their voices against racial inequity. We will engage our parishioners in transformative education and experiences that lead to new awareness and understanding. We all are called to a change of heart, a call to action, and the building of a community of justice.

INITIAL ACTION STEPS:

Provide weekly entries on our website, social media, bulletin, and weekly parish email. These are items that are worth watching, reading, or listening to as we all work to learn more about racial injustice.

Formulate questions for staff liaisons and committee and commission chairs to use at their meetings. This will prompt discussion and action on racial justice among parish leaders and will help others to get involved in this movement from the perspective of their own ministry area.

Environmental scan of our parish, considering our website, bulletin, signage, art, environment, and our building for signs of inclusivity and welcome. What might need to be improved?

Create an initial list of education options for the parish. Provide brief experiences as well as more intensive options to meet a variety of parishioner preferences.