

## How Do We Define Racism?

Racism can be individual and structural, conscious or unconscious. It is expressed either personally or structurally when one race or ethnicity is believed to be superior to other races or ethnicities. These beliefs or attitudes lead to exclusion, ridicule, mistreatment, and discrimination against those deemed inferior. Because racism denies others their rights and fails to acknowledge their dignity as persons, as neighbors, racism is sinful.

“Racism is learned – we can unlearn what we’ve learned”. *Monica Smith, St. Ignatius Parish Sacramento. Read full article <https://catholicmagazines.org/magazine-archi-ve/catholic-herald/sac072> in the Catholic Herald, July/August 2021, pp. 8-10.*

## Resources

Divine Savior Bartimaeus Ministry  
<https://www.divinesavior.com/examining-racism>  
Just Faith Ministries  
[www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)  
Cross Cultural Solidarity  
[www.CrossCulturalSolidarity.com](http://www.CrossCulturalSolidarity.com)

### BOOKS

Waking Up White by Debby Irving  
I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown  
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson  
40 Days of Prayer by Cheri L. Mills, Compiler  
Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum

### FILMS

The Butler, 2013  
Incarcerating US, 2016  
13th, 2016  
Green Book, 2018  
Just Mercy, 2019  
Time, 2020

For questions or concerns, please email Sr. Sheila Novak at [snovaksds@gmail.com](mailto:snovaksds@gmail.com)

## Bartimaeus Ministry for Racial Justice

A blind man, Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him. What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said, “Rabbi I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.  
(Mark 10:46-52)



## Bartimaeus Ministry History

In 2019, a group of Divine Savior parishioners gathered for a book study on Waking Up White by Debby Irving. Little did the group know that their “eyes would be opened” and that they were to begin a journey of deep contemplation and study. After four Just Faith Ministry 8-week studies and numerous book studies, the group has grown to about thirty parishioners and continues to expand.

Mission Statement: We, the people of Divine Savior Church, empowered by our baptism, dedicate ourselves to living the Gospel of Jesus. Inspired by love, justice, and mercy of Christ, we are called to share his message in service, so that all may know the Savior!

Through prayer, education, and action, The Bartimaeus Ministry:

- Promotes events, policy and system changes that lead to the unmasking of racism,
- Promotes recognition of the God-given human dignity of all people, and
- Addresses that which has diminished, withheld or denied the rights of people of color.

## Open Wide Our Hearts



In November 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a new pastoral letter against racism, **Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love**. In the letter, the bishops invite all people of faith to conversion. We are called to open our minds and hearts to Christ's love for all people and to the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism. <https://www.scd.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>



*Our initial study group in 2019*

## The Enduring Call to Love

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities - those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior. Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories. Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others. Help us to create a church and a nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed people of color where we live, as well as those around the world. Heal your family, God, and make us one with you in union with our brother, Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/racism/>



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