

Kinship For Kids!



Twentieth Edition
September 2020

A magazine from the
Glenmary Sisters
designed to teach
young people about
the home missions

From Racism to Unity

This year has been anything but normal. The topic on most minds has been, of course, the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic; however, there have been other events unfolding in our country that we, as Catholics, should address.

Racism, violence, and ultimately, unity are topics that are not always easy to talk about, but sometimes can't be avoided. Some of us think racism is a problem that doesn't affect us while others are growing up in the midst of it.

What exactly is racism? The Oxford Dictionary defines it as, "The inability or refusal to recognize the rights, needs, dignity, or value of people of particular races or geographical origins."



Have we been guilty of racism? Have we been the victim of racism? In this issue of Kinship for Kids, we're going to tackle the difficult topic of racism and how it can lead to violence. We are also going to look at how we, as Christians, can do our part to bring about peace and unity.

Source: Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy

From the Editor:

Hello Friends,

On behalf of the Glenmary Sisters, we hope you are staying safe and healthy. We know this year has been challenging for many, but we want to continue offering this publication for those who would like it.

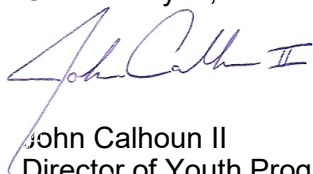
In this issue of *Kinship for Kids*, we're going to discuss a few topics that are very much at the forefront of our country right now; racism, violence, and unity.

We sincerely thank you for your interest in *Kinship for Kids* and we hope that you and your students will find it both educational and entertaining.

Please know that the Glenmary Sisters have you in their prayers as we navigate this pandemic.

If you would like more information about the Glenmary Sisters, please visit us at: www.glenmarysisters.org. We can also be found on Facebook.

God bless you,



John Calhoun II
Director of Youth Programs
Glenmary Sisters

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GLENMARY SISTERS
Twentieth Edition



The Glenmary Sisters, founded by Father William Howard Bishop in 1941, are a religious community of women working to establish a Catholic presence in the home mission areas of rural and small town America where it is not yet present in its fullness. Working in cooperation with the Glenmary Priests and Brothers, the two communities remain independent of each other. *Kinship for Kids* is an annual magazine published by the Glenmary Sisters to help teach youth about the needs of the home missions.

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Cultural Racism

Have you ever seen a product that says made in Japan? Have you been to a Mexican wedding? Do you know anyone who speaks Chinese? All of these things, if viewed in the wrong way, can lead to cultural racism.



Cultural racism occurs when we believe and/or promote the notion that our traditions and language are better than another culture's. This can be born from fear or anger toward a single member of another culture. Many times, it's born from misunderstanding.

One example of cultural racism is a **stereotype**. A stereotype is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image of a particular group of people.

Have you ever been guilty of cultural racism? What can we, as young Catholics do to prevent cultural racism?

Source: www.Merriam-Webster.com

Economic Racism

When you get older, you'll begin working and making money. What would you think if someone else did the same job as you but got paid less because of the color of their skin or because of what country they are from? Doesn't sound fair, does it? But that is the basic definition of economic racism.



The economy deals with the production and distribution of goods and services to people. But, unfortunately, some people use this as a chance to practice racism. They may hire two people for the same job and pay one less because of their race. Or, they may charge someone more for a service because of their race.

Many years ago, racial differences in pay was much more widespread than it is now, but, sadly, it still happens and sometimes even from big companies and banks.

So remember, you can make a difference in the future by treating everyone with respect and fairness. If we all do our part as Christians, perhaps one day we can end economic racism.

Source: www.Merriam-Webster.com

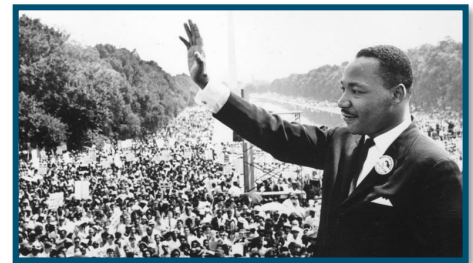
Our Christian Response

How can we, as young Catholics, respond to racism? Jesus tells us to love one another as we love ourselves so the answer should be clear.

Racism is not something any of us are born with. It's what's called a **learned behavior**. Christians, and all people for that matter, can play a large role in breaking down the walls of racism by showing respect and understanding of other peoples' culture.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states, "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."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister who used peace to bring awareness to the problems of racism. He said, "Sooner or later, all people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace..." Dr. King's words are based in faith and love.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks to thousands in Washington, D.C.



In the Gospel of John, there is a story about Jesus and a woman he met at a well. Jesus was a Jew and the woman was a Samaritan. Jews did not associate with Samaritans (which could be viewed as prejudice or racism), but Jesus was friendly to the woman. Eventually in the story the woman learns she is talking to the Messiah.

There have been many people over the years who have tried to bring about unity and eliminate racism. Each of these people began as a single voice but eventually their messages were heard by many. Will you speak out against racism and prejudice?

Sources: Catholic World Report, New American Bible

Find the Glenmary Sisters on
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Coming in February 2021

Teen Kinship

An online-only publication for middle and high school students.

Please visit Glenmarysisters.org for more information.

Racial violence has sadly been an issue since the founding of the United States. Anti-immigrant, anti-black, and even anti-Catholic groups have all been the cause of this violence.



Many of your parents or grandparents may remember the riots of the late 1960s. The murders of Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy sparked violence and riots across the entire country. These riots also caused the death of many innocent people.

In the late 1980s and into the 1990s there were several terrible racist events that sparked more riots. Today, we know these events as **hate crimes**, which is a violent or destructive act against someone just because of their race, religion, or nationality.

In our country right now, you may have seen or heard of many protests. While many have been peaceful, some have become violent. These recent events were sparked by racial tensions due to the actions of several people.

So, is there anything we can do to stop the violence? As Dr. King proved, it can start with just one person showing peace and love.

Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Pope Saint John XXIII

Unity

After reading about how horrible racism is, do you think there is a way we can fix it? Whether you're black, white, Asian, Latino, or any other race, we all have things we can learn from one another.

Unity can begin with one person taking a stand. As more and more people fight to stop this evil, it will be eventually bring us closer together as God's children.

As Archbishop Harry Flynn of St. Paul, Minnesota said in 2003, "Racism is a serious offense against God precisely because it violates the innate dignity of the human person. At its core racism is a failure to love our neighbor. Since we cannot claim to love God unless we love our neighbor, we can only be one with God if we reject racism and work aggressively to remove it from our personal lives, our church, and our society."

Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Father, Bless us as we strive to find our way to true racial reconciliation.

Open our eyes to all that goes on around us that contributes to racial injustice.

Grant us the knowledge to understand all that we do, both personally and as a society, which prevents us from recognizing and defending the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters, and especially at this time, our brothers and sisters of color who are now feeling so much pain.

Grant us the grace to reflect on our own actions and inactions that contribute to this pain.

And grant us the strength to take action to alleviate this pain and to end racial injustice in all its forms.

In your name we pray.

Phil Chick: www.Jesuitresource.org

Mission Spotlight: Eastern Kentucky

The Sisters serve in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Kentucky in Menifee and Bath Counties. This mission is in the Diocese of Lexington.

The Sisters perform many ministries in the area including operating Little Miracles, a shop and outreach center to help children, where people in need can receive baby and youth items, food, and other help.



Since the population is less than 1% Catholic, there is no Catholic Church in the county and the few Catholic residents travel 25 miles in any direction to attend Sunday Mass.

Being in such a unique location, there are many opportunities for both youth ministry and activities such as assisting with light construction work, helping at Little Miracles, painting, cleaning, and much more. There are

also beautiful locations to visit while in the area

such as Natural Bridge State Park, Red River Gorge, etc.



Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.

Amen.

Author unknown