

Bible Readings and Prayers to End Racism

Augustinians of the Midwest and all who wish to share Augustinian Spirituality are encouraged to mark the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination every March 21 with prayer, reflection, witness and action individually, in their communities and in their ministries.

To assist, we offer these suggested Bible readings and prayers to end the sin of racism and discrimination.

Prayers for the Elimination of Racism

To the Creator of all races and peoples, who loves each of us for our uniqueness, we offer our prayers of petition:

For an end to discrimination in all its forms, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That each person may be respected and valued as a child of God, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the Church may be a witness and a universal sign of unity among all peoples, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That each of us may acknowledge our part in mistakes and sins of the past pertaining to discrimination and racism, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

For a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation among peoples who share a history of mutual mistrust, hatred or aggression, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the victims of racial prejudice may forgive those who persecute them, and that their persecutors may have a change of heart, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the Church will continue to strive to make every element of human life correspond to the true dignity of the human person, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

For those who have struggled in the past and continue to do so today for civil rights, economic justice and the elimination of discrimination based on race, nationality or religion, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who allow another's race to influence their relationships and limit their openness, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That we may work to influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial or ethnic stereotypes, slurs and jokes and be affirming of the cultural contributions of every racial, ethnic and religious group in our world, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That we may make a personal commitment to abolish social structures which inhibit economic, educational and social advancement of the poor, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That we may work for decent working conditions, adequate income, housing, education and health care for all people, we pray ...

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, source of our life, we acknowledge you as Creator of all people of every race, language and way of life. Help us to see each other as you see us: your sons and daughters loved into being and sustained by your parental care. Keep watch over our hearts so that the evil of racism will find no home with us. Direct our spirits to work for justice and peace so that all barriers to your grace which oppress our brothers and sisters will be removed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recommended Bible Readings

- Genesis 1:26-31 (God created humanity in his image)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (We are the Body of Christ)
- 1 John 3:11-18 (Love must not be mere words)
- 1 John 4:7-21 (Those who say they love God must love their neighbor)
- John 15:1-8 (The Vine and the Branches)
- John 15:9-17 (Love one another)
- John 17:11-23 (That all may be one)

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