

## Ignatian Spirituality

Prayer for an End to Racism

By: John Bucki, SJ

Lord, Jesus Christ  
who reached across the ethnic boundaries  
between Samaritan, Roman and Jew  
who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives,  
help us to break down the barriers in our community,  
enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry,  
and free us to challenge and uproot it  
from ourselves, our society and our world.  
Amen.

## Islam

“By Allah, if you have killed one man, it is as if you have killed all the people”

*Muhammad, Sunan SaEid ibn Mansur 2776*

O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted

*(Sahih International 4:135)*

## Sisters of Mercy

Prayer: the Elimination of Racism

Good and gracious God,  
Who loves and delights in all people,  
we stand in awe before You,  
knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life.  
Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light.  
May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers.  
We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our Neighbor.  
May all peoples live in Peace.  
AMEN.

## Hinduism

Thence did arise, to fill this world, the races of mankind....  
Yea! knowing Me the source of all, by Me all creatures wrought....  
And, all for love of them, within their darkened souls I dwell,

And, with bright rays of wisdom's lamp, their ignorance dispel.

*The Bhagavad-Gita, from Chapter X*

## **Judaism**

A Prayer for Ferguson

By: Rabbinical Student Sandra Lawson

From: T'ruah, the rabbinic call for human rights

Help us to lie down, Dear Lord our God, in peace, and let us rise again, to life...

Spread over us the shelter of Your peace...

and inspire us with Your good counsel...

and save us for the sake of Your name...

and shield us in the wings of Your protection,

Guard our going out and our coming in, for life and peace, now and forever

Blessed are You Compassionate One, who spreads your canopy of peace over all Your people Israel, over Jerusalem and over the entire world.

## **Bahá'í**

Concerning the prejudice of race: it is an illusion, a superstition pure and simple! For God created us all of one race. There were no differences in the beginning, for we are all descendants of Adam. In the beginning, also, there were no limits and boundaries between the different lands; no part of the earth belonged more to one people than to another. In the sight of God there is no difference between the various races.

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p. 148-149*

## **Marianist**

Prayer for Ending Racism

Holy Mary, we join with you in prayer.

We seek the grace and understanding to be converted from the sin of racism that has infected our society for so many years.

Help us not be in denial of the power systems that still give some privileges at the expense of others.

Help us to use our power and influence in our communities, families, schools, parishes and other institutions to assure appreciation and respect for all cultures.

We are grateful for our call to live and spread the community spirit in which the Body of Christ flourishes and celebrates various gifts and talents. Show us the steps we must take to counteract racism. We pray in the name of Jesus, asking your intercession.

Amen

## Prayer to Heal Racial Division

We thank you, O Lord,  
For in your loving wisdom  
You created one human family  
With a diversity  
That enriches our communities.

We pray to you, O Lord,  
That we always recognize  
each member of this human family  
As being made in your image and beloved by you,  
With worth and dignity.

We pray to you, O Lord,  
That we may envision a way forward  
To heal the racial divisions  
That deny human dignity and  
the bonds between all human beings.

We pray to you, O Lord  
That we may affirm each person's dignity  
Through fair access for all  
To economic opportunity, housing,  
Education, and employment.

We pray to you, O Lord,  
That we may have eyes to see  
What is possible when we reach out  
Beyond fear, beyond anger,  
To hold the hand of our sisters, our brothers.

We thank you, O Lord,  
For your call and challenge to us  
That we may reveal your teachings and your love  
Through our actions to end racism  
And to proclaim that we are all your children,  
heirs to your sacred creation.

Amen.