

Virtual Prayer and Panel Conversations with Fr. Tim on Systemic Racism and White Privilege (Part II)

Black Lives in Education: Faith in Action

October 15, 2020, 6:45-8:45 pm, in Zoom

"The Dialogue continues". We suggest that you have the worship outline on page 3 handy on Oct. 15, 6:45 pm.

Taken from a homily from Fr. Tim after the Just Mercy Part I, prayer and dialogue, July 23, 2020.

As I look at the world in the lens of the gospel, not what is comfortable for me, but the gospel of Jesus Christ. Question once again in the midst of what's happening today "what would Jesus do?". We know the answer, I think we don't want to do what Jesus would do. Pick up your (our) cross and follow Jesus. It isn't and won't be easy. Jesus told the disciples the cost would be their lives. Seriously reflect on that. Engage this systemic racism in our country built on the backs of slavery. Accept it and teach it, which I wasn't taught. Sit as white people in our own discomfort. We had over 100 people on a Zoom prayer service on racism and white privilege. The stories were incredible, moving, the pain and glory and sacredness of the stories...[a diversity of] people from our parish. It's a beginning...the dialogue continues. Stay engaged all of us. Stay engaged.

Faith in Action...Stay Engaged...the Dialogue Continues.

Join us for the Virtual Prayer Service and Panel Conversations with Fr. Tim Hickey on Systemic Racism and White Privilege, 6:45-8:45 p.m., EDT, Thursday, October 15, 2020. Music Dir. – Jeff Corry. This is the continuing dialogue of the July 23rd 'Just Mercy' event. Hosted by the Minkisi ministry, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Arlington, Virginia. Watch and participate with a panel of teachers and parents, who will lead the conversations on 'Black Lives in Education: Faith in Action'. **Coordinated by Cecilia Braveboy and the Just Mercy Committee (Barbara Harris, Jackie Smith, Gail Meighan, Grace Risetto).** Behind the Scenes Committee (Julia Rocchi and Christina Kozyn). **The Zoom info will be sent to registrants on the morning of October 15th.** Register by Tuesday, October 13 for this Zoom event: <https://bit.ly/34hEft6>

For questions, contact Cecilia Braveboy, JISAAC3@VERIZON.NET. For information about Minkisi ministry: <https://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org/minkisi-ministry.html>



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

A Response to Combat Racism and White Privilege...and the Conversations Continue



We are in this coronavirus pandemic for some time and are experiencing the struggles and the blessings of the coronavirus in our daily lives. We, also, are in a special moment of U.S. history with a heightened awareness of Black Lives Matter. Our program title and topic for this evening gathers us in a “Virtual Prayer Service and Panel Conversations with Fr. Tim Hickey on Systemic Racism and White Privilege”. As a subtitle, **the evening topic is Black Lives in Education -- Faith in Action**. A question for our panelists and participants ‘to chew on’ is: **What is God asking me to be and do in this racially challenging time that we are in** (...praying, stepping out in faith, listening, forgiving and reconciling, transforming structures, assisting others in virtual learning, including more culturally-oriented curriculum, educating and conversing with others to become more aware of racism and white privilege, advocating for racial justice changes in our families, parishes and communities)?

Several discussion items have surfaced that our panelists (parents, teachers, educators, leaders) might use in their conversations: virtual learning -- digital divide, culturally inclusive curriculum and activities, i.e., inclusion of African American history from the 1800s to current time, parental involvement, OLQP Ujamaa scholarship program, local Black parent advocacy community groups (Black Parent Alliance of Arlington, NAACP, new Arlington County Chief Racial Equity and Diversity Officer – Samia Byrd). Also, included in the topics, we will have some of the OLQP parish history for social change in education, e.g., the former child development

program of the Family Activities Center/Early Learning Center, Ujamaa scholarship program, and the former parish credit union for members that could finance tuition and other educational costs. (See an 11 min. video. “Our Lady Queen in the Spiritans in Arlington, VA – Part I”, Filmed in 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lyXtHZmPMY&t=4s>)

Ahead of the Oct 15th z-meet, participants might view or browse:

- 1) On Black Lives Matter in the Church, (a 30 min. video) “Repentance and Reconciliation... What are we going to do together?” Bishop Fernand Cheri, OFM’s keynote August 4, 2020 to the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (a national organization of 16,000 members of priest, religious brothers in U.S.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m7njR9cu2w&t=832s>
- 2) APS First Day of School 2020, September 3, 2020. A 12 mins. video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3bReSWnY84&t=68s>
- 3) Aspire learning program at the Arlington Mills Center, a 4 mins. video. <https://youtu.be/83h7NqdHlvg>.
- 4) A 1 hr. video of “It’s Just Me”, the Integration of the Arlington Public Schools (1986). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtKtqbrbbQg>. Arlington was the first County in the state of Virginia to desegregate its public schools in 1959. (A few of the Catholic schools in Virginia had been desegregated after the Supreme Court’s Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954...St. Thomas More School (Arlington), St. Charles (Arlington) and St. Mary’s Academy (Alexandria).
- 5) A 2 mins. WUSA TV video clip of Green Valley residents doing a prayer vigil/rally/Black parents speak out after George Floyd’s murder in June. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpeWNlfZHIY>.
- 6) Get to know the history of Green Valley community where Our Lady Queen of Peace is in South Arlington. OLQP church is listed on p. 31 of the booklet, “Guide to the African American Heritage” (2016). <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2016/09/A-Guide-to-the-African-American-Heritage-of-Arlington-County-Virginia.pdf>

Virtual Prayer Service and Panel Conversations with Fr. Tim Hickey on Systemic Racism and White Privilege, 6:45-8:45 p.m., EDT, Thursday, October 15, 2020 in a Zoom Meeting, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Arlington, VA. Hosted by Minkisi Ministry, Cecilia Braveboy, Coordinator. Jeff Corry, Music Director.

~~WORSHIP GUIDE - PRAYER & RACIAL CONVERSATIONS ~~

6:45 pm – Participants enter Zoom (mics muted).

6:50 – Prelude – Prayer Service begins with gospel music medley - (Jeff Corry), Prayer Art Slides, and a 10 min. video clip on the Church, systemic racism, and white privilege.

Welcome, Background, Introductions, Prayer and Racial Dialogue Journey (Cecilia Braveboy, moderator.) *(Use chat room for comments throughout.)*

†Opening Prayer – *taken from Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A., Songs of My People.* Reader: Gail Meighan.

- Scripture Reading – Matthew 6:9-13. Reader: Stefanie Gooden.
- Silent Prayer
- Homily – Fr. Tim Hickey
- Meditation Song, “Give Us This Day”. Alice Lockett, acapella.
- Antiphon: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Ps. 147:3)

Panelist’s Conversations (3 min. each): Cynthia Brown (panel moderator), Patrick Julius, Natasha Ofosu, Mary Strimel. (Brief quiet music break) (Cynthia Brown leads back in.) Jackie Smith, Jon Stewart, Mary Hynes. Followed by interaction among the panelists based on a few questions from chat comments.

Black Lives in Education -- Faith in Action. A question for our panelists and participants is : **What is God asking me to be and do in this racially challenging time that we are in?** (See expanded question on page 2 of this worship outline.)

Use chat room for comments.

Feedback (via chat now or by email, JISAAC3@VERIZON.NET). Acknowledgements, Resources, Next Steps. (Cecilia Braveboy)

We Lift Up Our Prayers of Petition to our Good and Gracious God. (Cecilia)
All Respond (mics muted): **Our Father, give us this day. We need you to survive.**

Ending with a prayer by Janice King. Reader: Barbara Harris.

Remarks, Closing Prayer, Blessing & Sending Forth. (Fr. Tim)

8:45 pm – End. (Lively instrumental music medley, “Ev’ry Praise”- Hezekia Walker. (By Jeff Corry, music director)

†**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:9-13.

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,

“This is how you are to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.”

The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

O Lord, help us to be attentive to your commands. Help us to walk in unity. Help us to celebrate who we are and whose we are. Help us to overcome selfishness, anger and violence in our hearts, our homes, our Church, our world. Help us to knock down, pull down, shout down the walls of racism, sexism, classism, materialism, and militarism that divide and separate us. Help us to live as your united people, proclaiming with one voice, our faith, our hope, our love, our joy. --*Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A., Songs of My People.*



Sister Thea Bowman: National Witness to Possibility of Racial Harmony, By Father Maurice Nutt. Posted by Tereza Ma, www.mississippicatholic.com/2020/06.

Recently a fellow priest friend told me that a parishioner called him because she was troubled by the way that George Floyd was being hailed as a saint by the media. "He wasn't a saint," she quipped. The priest replied, "No, he wasn't a saint, but neither are you and I, we are all sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness." We've watched the excruciating video of an apprehended 46-year-old African American man by four Minneapolis police officers, hand-cuffed face down on the ground as one of the police officers relentlessly pressed his knee into his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Floyd in anguish cried out, "Please, I can't breathe" to no avail and became unconscious and died of asphyxiation. Moments after George Floyd's murder and continuing on today protests have erupted globally in cities large and small. The protesters have been multiracial and intergenerational indicating that they are united in their quest for justice and racial harmony. The demands for racial justice and equality, an end to racial violence, and police reform have reverberated incessantly. No, George Floyd was not a saint, but he remains a symbol of something much more insidious: the sin of racism. This sin is an ever-present reminder that some people and institutions who have economic, social, cultural, political power and privilege deliberately or unwittingly subjugate and oppress those who do not enjoy equal power and privilege. Some social and economic advances notwithstanding, racism and discrimination continues to plague the vast majority of people of color in our nation. Systemic racism has been present in our country since 1619, the year that enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of what would eventually become the United States. Thus, for four hundred years African Americans have fought for justice and equality: a fight that has never been fair nor equal. Four hundred years marked by the era of slavery, Reconstruction, "Jim Crow" segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Lives Matter Movement. The struggle has been for the respect of their humanity and recognition as being created in the image and likeness of God — like all humanity. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Protest is the language of the unheard." Protest is also the language of those who are tired of fighting and want

the dominant culture to hear and to understand. The voices crying out for the eradication of racism are not only being heard from the voices of the protesters on our city streets but from religious women and men, priests, laity, theologians, Bishops, and even from Pope Francis. Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago said, "People of color suffer discrimination and indignities not only from racist individuals, but from the very structures erected by our society that were meant to protect the vulnerable." Pope Francis instructs us, "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." And still there is yet another voice of one who walked and worked among us and continues to call us to intercultural appreciation and racial reconciliation, Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA. Here is her testimony: "I can be a bridge over troubled water. I can take you by the hand and take you with me into the black community. I can walk with you into your community, and if I walk with you into your community, I don't enter as a stranger, I walk as your sister." We have a Mississippian who was a national witness to the possibility of racial healing and reconciliation. Sister Thea believed that we all must work to tear down the walls of racial division in our segregated and polarized society and church by making the effort to truly be in contact with one another: to get to know another's story, their joys, sorrows, hopes and dreams. She was emphatic that the church as the Body of Christ must first confess her sin of racism, make amends and come to a place of healing and reconciliation. Then and only then can the church be a leader in racial healing globally. Sister Thea said: "May the Spirit within us and among us inspire us to keep on keeping on, in our homes and families, in our communities and in our church. May the Spirit inspire us, and may we share our spiritual and cultural gifts with the church and with the world. We've come this far by faith. Can't turn around." Sister Thea, pray for us! *(Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R. is a Redemptorist Missionary. Reverend Dr. Nutt's areas of research and interests include pastoral theology, homiletics, African American culture, and the intersectionality of the church and the work of justice.)* <https://www.mississippicatholic.com/2020/06/19/sister-thea-bowman-national-witness-to-possibility-of-racial-harmony/>

We give honor and praise to God for Congressman John Lewis. This civil rights icon, prayer warrior & faithful servant died on July 17, 2020, but his non-violent, determined spirit remains with us. "So go out there and be a headlight and not a tail light. Get out there and get in the way, get in good trouble, necessary trouble." –Congressman John Lewis.