

# *Hope in the Face of Racism Webinar Series*

## **Prayers**

### **Wake me up Lord**

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me.

Keep watch over my heart Lord, and remove from me any barriers to your grace, that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters.

Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give services of justice and peace.

Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory.

And finally, remind us Lord that you said, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

Amen.

*From For the Love of One Another (1989), a special message from the Bishops’ Committee on Black Catholics of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, on the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Pastoral Letter, Brothers and Sisters to Us, the U.S. Catholic bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Racism (1979). Available: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/prayer-service-for-racial-healing.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/prayer-service-for-racial-healing.cfm)*

### **A Prayer for an End to the Sin of Racism**

God of Heaven and Earth, you created the one human family and endowed each person with great dignity.

Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism. Grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civil institutions.

Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor so that we may work with you in healing our land from racial injustice.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*From the Interim Commission for Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Available: <https://www.archspm.org/a-prayer-for-an-end-to-the-sin-of-racism/>*

## **A Prayer of Mourning**

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

We long for your shalom--for the healing, wholeness, and restoration of your people and your world. We long to know your abundance and your peace.

Yet many of us participate and uphold the systems of evil, injustice, and oppression that are established to privilege some and hinder the breath of others.

These systems are unveiled and exposed in this season...

...whether it is in the rampant spread of COVID-19 that has stolen the breath of life from more than 100,000 people, disproportionately people of color,

...or hospitals discounting COVID-19 symptoms in African Americans, who are denied testing and proper treatment until after it is too late and they take their last breath,

...or a police officer using excessive force, while ignoring George Floyd's pleas for his life until he could breathe no more,

There are so many names to recount whose lives were lost unjustly.

Breathe on us, Holy Spirit

may the fire of righteous indignation burn in our hearts so that we might be refined, transformed, and renewed by its flame each day.

Breathe on us, Holy Spirit

so that we might be emboldened to interrupt the sinful systems of evil, injustice, and oppression all around us. That we might root it out of ourselves and our laws and our institutions.

Breathe on us, Holy Spirit so that we might be agents of your shalom.

Come Holy Spirit, Come.

Amen.

*From Bread for the World. Available: <https://www.bread.org/news/prayer-mourning>*