Hope in the Face of Racism

Part 6: Modeling Civil Dialogue
Opening Prayer

Let us learn, first of all, to defend our belief without hating our adversaries, to appreciate those who do not think as we do, to recognize that there are Christians in every camp, and that God can be served now as always!

Let us complain less of our times and more of ourselves.

Let us not be discouraged, let us be better.
Principles of Civil Dialog

Common Dialogue
• Listen in order to refute
• Ask questions from a position of certainty
• Ignore the feelings involved
• Let’s agree to disagree

Civil Dialogue
• Listen to gain insight
• Ask questions from a position of curiosity
• Listen to feelings; pay attention to how you respond
• Summarize what you’ve heard and ask for feedback to search for truth
• Humanize the other
Love at the Center

Learn to defend your convictions without hating your adversaries and love those who think differently from yourselves.

- Frédéric Ozanam -
Bulverism is not Civil Dialogue

“The modern method is to assume without discussion that [the other person] is wrong and then distract his attention from [the issue] by busily explaining how he became to be so silly.”

C.S. Lewis
Always Assume Good Faith

Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances.

(Vincent de Paul)
Facts may not care...but we do.

“One of my greatest consolations is the certainty that, while defending the truth with all my might, I never offended anyone.”
The Meaning of Dialogue

διά λόγος

through speech
Our Models

Marie Wicks  Bobby Kinkela
Health Care & COVID-19

• Isn't it because more blacks live in cities where the concentration of people is higher, making it riskier to get Covid? COVID 19 has certainly affected our neighbors of color, but as stated they have more medical issues than just COVID 19. Segregation is the main problem of healthcare, housing and education.

• Health care issues affect the poor disproportionately. It is a poverty issue, not a racial issue.

• What is the black community doing to encourage our neighbors of color to go for medical care? WHAT CAN I DO TO ENCOURAGE OUR NEIGHBORS OF COLOR TO SEEK OUT MEDICAL CARE?
# Health Care & COVID-19

## COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATION, AND DEATH BY RACE/ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors that Increase Community Spread and Individual Risk</th>
<th>Crowded Situations</th>
<th>Close / Physical Contact</th>
<th>Enclosed Space</th>
<th>Duration of Exposure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases(^1) compared to White, Non-Hispanic Persons</td>
<td>2.8x higher</td>
<td>1.1x higher</td>
<td>2.6x higher</td>
<td>2.8x higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization(^2)</td>
<td>5.3x higher</td>
<td>1.3x higher</td>
<td>4.7x higher</td>
<td>4.6x higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death(^3)</td>
<td>1.4x higher</td>
<td>No Increase</td>
<td>2.1x higher</td>
<td>1.1x higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race and ethnicity are risk markers for other underlying conditions that impact health — including socioeconomic status, access to health care, and increased exposure to the virus due to occupation (e.g., frontline, essential, and critical infrastructure workers).

Source: CDC
Marriage & Family

• Breakdown of family.

• Marriage is ignored in all races.

• Single women have children by multiple men.

• The "marriage penalty"
Racism

• I don't necessarily [see] all of us having race issues.

• It is damaging to perpetuate the idea that we have systemic racism today.
Diversity in Vincentian Service

• Only white parishioners are serving...

• Put aside political ideology and commit to truly serving in a non-judgmental way
Closing Prayer

Lord make us hear the words of all our discouraged neighbors; give them voices by giving us ears to listen.

Give us hearts to weep with all that mourn, sharing their loss, comforting them in their sadness.

We pray especially for Your healing grace, Lord. Let us not harden our hearts, set against each other in anger, but instead be joined in community, each of us loving our neighbor as ourselves. Let it begin with me.

Amen.