



MARCH 2022

Media Meditation

St. Ignatius Catholic Community: The Jesuit Church of Baltimore

Recommit to antiracist work. Challenge yourself to take the time to watch these videos, read these articles, and reflect.

SISTERS OF MERCY PRAYER: THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world, and ourselves.

This we pray: AMEN.

MARCH 3: FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

In 1891, Saint Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament ("SBS"), a Catholic order of nuns in the United States. Saint Katharine used approximately \$20 million of her personal fortune to fund SBS-staffed schools for Native Americans and African Americans. She is the patron saint of racial justice.



[Click here to learn more \(3 min video\): St. Katharine Drexel](#)

MARCH 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. On that day in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid laws in Sharpeville, South Africa. When the United Nations proclaimed this day in 1966, it called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

[Click here to watch: \(3 min video\): The Sharpeville Massacre: Standing Up Against Racism](#)



MARCH 20: BIRTHDAY OF DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS

Dr. Norman C. Francis was the president of Xavier University of Louisiana, the nation's only Catholic HBCU. His 47 years as president is among the longest of any college president in the United States. During this time, Dr. Francis also worked as a civil rights lawyer, getting young Black people out of jail. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded Dr. Francis the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This year, he will celebrate his 90th birthday.

[Click here to learn more \(2.5 min video and 4 minute read\): History & Hope: Dr. Francis's Candid Advice on how to Address Racism](#)



MARCH 31: INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Trans Day of Visibility is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice. In 2021, at least 375 transgender people were murdered. It was the deadliest year of violence against gender diverse people since records began.

[Click here to watch \(2 min video\): Sister Luisa Derouen's Ministry to the Transgender Community](#)



REFLECT:

- What am I willing to do this Lent in support of antiracism?
- Am I willing to donate financially to organizations that support Black and Indigenous causes? When will I do so?
- How did I react to hearing Dr. Francis say that we, as a community, have not "dealt" with racism? How am I working to advance antiracist ideals in myself, my family, my workplace, my church, and other spaces?
- Did I know about the Sharpeville Massacre? How did it make me feel to hear victims of South African police brutality talk about the violence they experienced? Do I feel differently when I hear Black Americans talk about police brutality? Do I ask for additional proof of their claims, like videos, in order to believe their lived experience? Why is this different to me?
- Father James Martin says to love transgender people as Jesus loved people on the margins: extravagantly. Do I have any reservations or knee-jerk reactions about doing this? How can I confront my own hesitations and move closer to love?