



Charlottesville's Catholic Worker Community
911 Nassau Street, Charlottesville VA 22902
cvillecw@gmail.com, 434-409-0804, casa-alma.org

Racism and Our Catholic Response, Session 4

Reading: Psalm 62: 2-3, 6-7

My soul rests in God alone, from whom comes my salvation.
God alone is my rock and my salvation, my secure height; I shall never fall.

My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope.
God alone is my rock and my salvation, my secure height; I shall never fall.

Silence

Opening Prayer:

Reader: We come into this space, as people blessed by the touch of God;
as people enriched by cultures born into and discovered;
as people wounded by racism; as people yearning for healing;
as people working for the Kingdom.

ALL: God, be with us.

Reader: We come into this space, with anticipation of the work before us;
with an openness to discovery;
with a commitment to working for reconciliation;
with a willingness to challenge and be challenged; with anticipation of discovery.

ALL: Christ, come near us.

Reader: We come into this space, to encourage each other to action.

ALL: Holy Spirit, bless our time together. Amen.

Review:

- Group agreements
- To date: we've considered characteristics of dialogue, explored racism as acts and attitudes of discrimination based upon perceived skin color/group within a system of power and privilege.
- Power is the ability to act to produce an effect; all people have some measure of power which is given to us for the building up of God's kingdom in acts of love, acts of service, acts of justice.
- Privilege is advantage conferred upon us based upon our identity and the place and time where we live. We can leverage our privilege with actions of invitation, sharing, advocacy, and redistribution.

Tonight's topics: Framework for action - Being the beloved community. Taking action as individuals, as parishioners, and in our broader community. How might we engage in building racial justice from a place of faith, from where we are and leveraging what we have?

Journal prompts¹:

7. How has racism kept you isolated and separate from others? If it were possible, how would you limit the effects of racism and prejudice in your life?

8. How do you feel about the changing demographics of your parish, diocese, or community? If there have not been any changes, why not?

Introductions: Name and a community or group to which you belong.

¹ [Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: Antiracism Training Manual](#)

Becoming Beloved Community:

Handout, review

“The Beloved Community is the body within which all people can grow to love God and love the image of God we find in our neighbors, in ourselves, and in creation...With prayer, by the grace of God alone, rooted in our baptismal promises, we set out now on a lifelong commitment to follow the loving, liberating, and life-giving way of Jesus.”



Telling the Truth about our Church and Race:

Who are we? What things have we done and left undone regarding racial justice and healing?

Proclaiming the Dream of the Beloved

Community: How can we publicly acknowledge things done and left undone? What does Beloved Community look like in this place? What behaviors and commitments on our part will foster reconciliation, justice, and healing?

Practicing the Way of Love as Ambassadors of

Reconciliation: How will we grow as reconcilers, healers, and justice-bearers? How will we actively grow relationship across dividing walls and seek Christ in the other?

Repairing the Breach in Institutions and Society: What institutions and systems are broken near us? How will we participate in the repair, restoration, and healing of people, institutions, and systems?

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/becoming_beloved_community_individuals_and_congregations.pdf

Reflection and Sharing:

Where am I drawn to build the beloved community? Which of the four phases most resonates with me?

What am I fearful to do in building the beloved community? Which of the four phases most challenges me?

Action as parishioners:

Handout, brief review

- Evaluate our parishes from a racial justice lens. (Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, handouts available).
- Gather 3-4 people and convene as a Catholic anti-racism team. Are Catholics relevant to what's happening around race in our community? Will I offer what I have or remain on the sidelines?
- Convene an adult formation event: movie screening or book study. Sojourners Christian Discussion Guide on Racism: https://sojo.net/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/DG_racialjustice.pdf (4 sessions + articles)
- Draw from our tradition of Catholic Social teaching and our practices of confession and reconciliation, prayer, conversion, and healing.
- Send a note to your pastor, pastoral staff, or pastoral council on what you're learning and how that learning could be amplified within the parish community

Action in community / with friends, neighbors, and colleagues:

Open conversations in the circles you already travel in, with people who already know you and have confidence in you. **De-compartmentalize; integrate.**

Participate in events as a Catholic or person of faith. Bring a friend or neighbor; debrief afterward with people you know with whom you've never had a conversation about racial justice. **Aim to multiply; be leaven.**

- Sign up for the UCARE newsletter (University and Community Action for Racial Equity). Attend the Community Forum at Ebenezer Baptist 6/27 from 6:30-8:00pm, "Charlottesville Strong: Summer 2018 and Beyond"
- Attend an event at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- Attend a SURJ meeting (Showing Up for Racial Justice) - education and local action campaigns
- Participate in faithful presence trainings in July with Congregate Cville, interfaith prayer August 11
- Attend "The Color of Heaven" 7/28/18, a cultural intelligence workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Richmond. Register online.
- Watch for the fall racial justice pilgrimage and events sponsored by the Charlottesville Clergy Collective

When you enter into unfamiliar spaces and groups, recall that building trust takes time and that justice work is work for the long haul. **Persevere; remain rooted.**

Review the [Resources for Racial Reconciliation and Justice](#) from the Episcopal Church (justice within and beyond the church, practical guides, prayers, books, podcasts, films, parenting resources)

Videos:

[NY Times: 25 mini-films for exploring race, bias, and identity with students](#)

[Revolutionary Love Conference 2018](#) (partial list of videos)

- What Faith Communities Must Do About Racism
- Moral Courage: Black Women Face Down Racism
- When Hope Fails: Sustaining Resistance
- White Supremacy: What's Love Got to Do with It?
- Poverty, Policy, and Advocacy
- The Labor of Revolutionary Love
- Race, Poverty, and a Path to Redemption
- A Dream Deferred: Immigration, Race, and Xenophobia
- Our History and the Violence of White Supremacy
- The Economy and the American Dream
- A Call to Moral Revival

[Racism without Racists](#) (2 min) "A to-do list for white folks"
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (author of book of the same title)

PBS NewsHour (3min) [Brief But Spectacular video on Courage](#) with Damon Davis

America Inside Out with Katie Couric (Episode 1) [Re-Righting History](#)

Ted Talk (5 min) [The Danger of Silence](#) with Clint Smith

Ted Talk (15 min) [Color blind or color brave?](#) with Mellody Hobson

Ted Talk (20 min) [Let's Get to the Root of Racial Justice](#) with Megan Ming Francis

Life of Privilege Explained in a \$100 Race (4 min) Youtube video

Videos with Debby Irving, author of the book [Waking Up White](#)

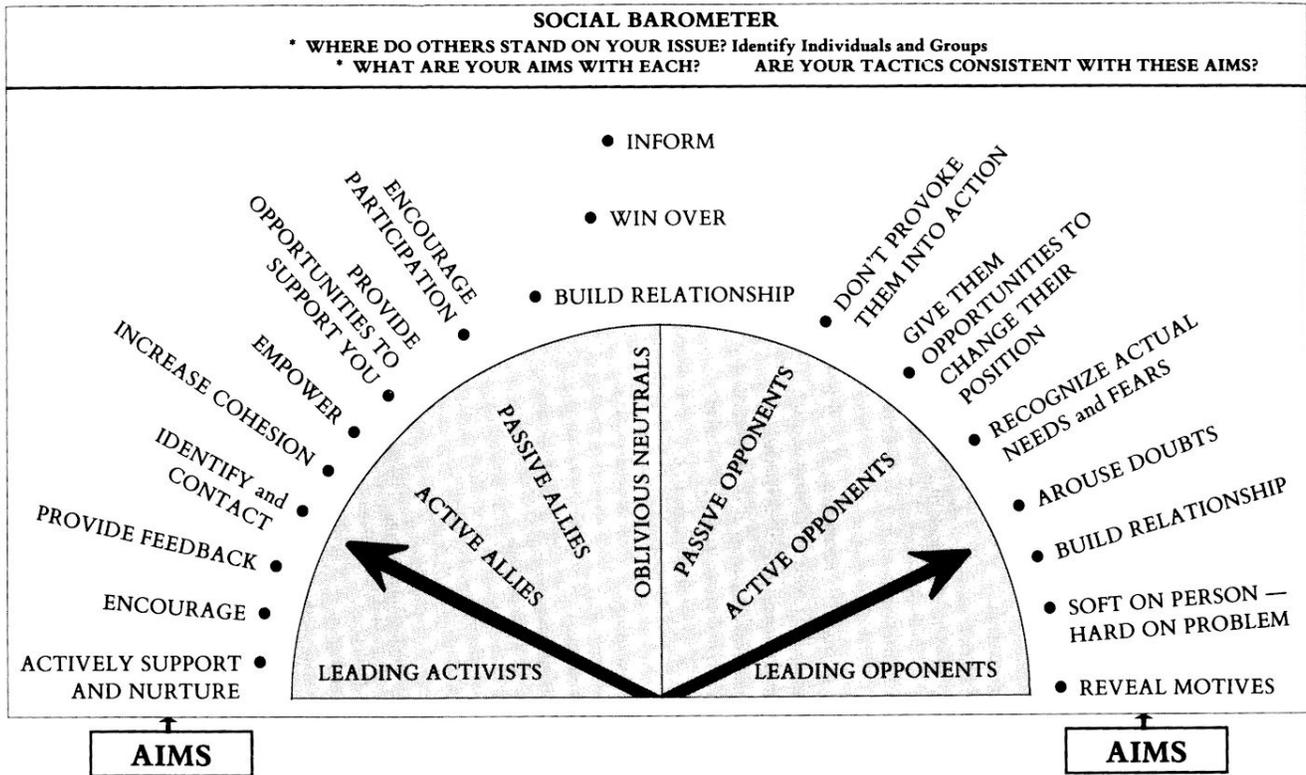
Take the Implicit Bias Test at: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

Article and exercise '[Implicit Bias: The problem and how to interrupt it. Plus the beads test](#)'

Review the resources and publications of [Race Forward](#): The Center for Racial Justice Innovation

- Be strategic about our position (our role in a given moment) and our aims both as individuals and as groups.
- Help recognize and articulate the roles and aims of others and provide the kind of support they need.

Image from the SURJ website.



I wish to acknowledge inspiration from David H. Albert: "People Power — Applying Non Violence Theory" New Society Publishers, Philadelphia, PA, 1985.

Excerpts from the "Checklist for White Allies" by John Raible, 1994

I am present at meetings to make sure anti-racism is part of the discussion. I demonstrate knowledge and awareness of the issues of racism. I continually educate myself and others about racism. I recognize my own limitations as a white person doing anti-racist work. I realize "it's not about me."

I can be objective and avoid over-personalizing issues that people of color raise. I can strategize and work in coalition with others to advance anti-racist work. I attend to group dynamics to ensure the inclusion of people of color. I strive to share power with people of color. I take a personal interest in the lives and welfare of individual people of color.

I listen carefully so that I am more likely to understand the needs of people of color. I can accept leadership from people of color. I take risks in relating to people of color and take their ideas seriously.

Sharing, in small groups: Which areas of action resonate with you? Which do you find challenging?

Preview: Casa Alma is able to provide resources (trainings, small group facilitation, recommendations for books and films, networking and promotion) for any actions which emerge. Please contact Laura for details.

Closing: Our Father