

During this time of social unrest ignited by the death of George Floyd, Donovan Catholic is prayerfully discerning how our school community can be a part of ending the sins of individual and institutional racism. Covid-19 and the senseless death of George Floyd have opened our eyes, once again, to the ugly reality of racial disparities in our country. We need to do more as individuals, and as a school community, to work to eradicate racism in our society.

Although our Catholic Social Teaching curriculum currently includes this topic, we commit ourselves to providing more opportunities to educate our students to listen to and to empathize with those who are victims of systemic racism. As an International Baccalaureate School, we also commit ourselves to educate our students about other cultures and to work for justice for all people.

Administrators, staff and alumni have already met to begin the conversation and the work of responding to systemic racism. As a result of that conversation, some staff have already participated in webinars given by experts in this topic to educate themselves and to guide us in how to proceed within the months to come. We will be developing a task force to ensure that Donovan Catholic continues to be a safe space for all our students.

As a Catholic Community, we believe that systemic racism, and many other social ills, are larger than any of us. It is imperative that we all call upon the power and wisdom of God to guide our thoughts, our words **and** our actions; we cannot do this on our own. Sunday, the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi: The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. As St. Teresa of Avila tells us, *“Christ has no body now, but ours. No hands, no feet on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world... the feet with which he walks to do good.”*

We are given the task of bringing the justice and the peace of the Kingdom of God to our world in Jesus’ name. This is a task greater than what we can do on our own, so humbly we pray:

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...
We have prayed and now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet to action. Amen
(taken from USCCB: A Prayer Service for Racial Healing in Our Land)

[June 4 Message from Father Scott](#)