

# Archdiocese of Seattle Eastside Deanery and St John Vianney Church Racial Equity Formation Series RESULTS AND COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

St John Vianney parishioners, together with our brothers and sisters throughout the Eastside Deanery, came together this fall to participate in a Seven-Session Process on the USCCB Pastoral Letter on Racism: *Open Wide Our Hearts: - the enduring call to love.*

The series began with a session on Empathy and Perspective Taking, led by SJV parishioner and CWU lecturer, Andy Parks, followed by 4 weekly study and discussion sessions on the Pastoral Letter.

Participants worked together in a day of service with Catholic Community Services assisting senior residents at a mobile home park in Redmond.

Finally, the series concluded with a deanery-wide retreat where participants pledged individual commitments to make change to undo racism in our communities. The following commitments to action were shared:

## **PERSONAL** - *Rebuilding our relationships:*

- ◆ Attend Mass at Immaculate Conception to pray, celebrate, connect and be with others;
- ◆ Expose and educate my children on diversity, respect, and human dignity;
- ◆ When I see an act of injustice, speak up and act;
- ◆ Continue to educate myself on racism and social justice;
- ◆ Speak to someone I would normally walk by.

## **COMMUNAL** - *Healing our communities:*

- ◆ Encourage our priests and bishops to speak out more on this topic;
- ◆ Form a Social Justice Initiative at our parish to focus on racial equity\*;
- ◆ Hold a class on the history of racism in the American Christian Church\*\*;
- ◆ Take time to be there for our low-income brothers and sisters;
- ◆ Support marginalized persons to gain positions of leadership in our churches, schools and workplaces.

## **SYSTEMIC** - *Working to shape our policies and institutions toward the good of all, as missionary disciples:*

- ◆ Advocate for justice in voting rights, curriculum, and fair housing laws;
- ◆ Provide greater resources for schools in underserved neighborhoods;
- ◆ Speak, advocate and use my voice for those that are marginalized;
- ◆ Call attention to relationships between environmental degradation and communities of lower income;
- ◆ Practice informed voting and actively contact my representatives.

\* **St John Vianney is forming a Social Justice Initiative Commission to raise awareness of and advocate for racial equity. Please contact Susan, [sweaver@sjvkirkland.org](mailto:sweaver@sjvkirkland.org), for more information or to join our group.**

\*\* **A class on the History of Racism in the American Church is being offered virtually at St John Vianney beginning January 6, led by Ron Petrusha. Contact the SJV office, 425-823-0787, to sign up.**

*“This is what Yahweh asks of you: Only this, to Act Justly, to Love Tenderly,  
and to Walk Humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8*