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*Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston Prayer Vigil - June 7, 2020*

## **We Are Called to Be Christ's Body – Anti-Racism Prayer Vigil**

**Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston – Sunday, June 7, 2020**

### **Why are we here today?**

We are here because we believe in a God who has a dream for us, a dream for Oneness – that we would know *we truly belong to each other.*

We are here because God **CREATED** us in colors, knowing it would add to our strength, **BEAUTY**, and richness.

We are here because God *calls each of us God's own* – children of God “In Whom God lives.”

We are here because Jesus showed us the way we are to realize God's dream –

To love one another. To treat each other as we wish to be treated. Not ever to benefit at the **COST** of another – Intentionally or unintentionally.

We are here today – because **WE HAVE BEEN CALLED** to be Christ's **BODY**. The only **BODY** Christ has now.

**TO WITNESS OUT LOUD TO UNITY AND LOVE.** From wherever we are.

We are here – because we know our Black sisters and brothers are yearning to breathe free, and We must be the **BREATH** of God. **WE ARE PENTACOST PEOPLE.**

#### **AND SO WE PRAY:**

**Use us, oh God, to be your voice of justice in our hurting world.**

**Use us, oh God, to be the change we know you want to see**

**Where eyes and ears and hearts are opened –**

**And every Black brother and sister can breathe free, be recognized as sacred, and racism is dismantled.**

**Change takes time. And time is up!! May we do everything in the name of love. Because you, our god created us to, you called us to, and you will give us the strength and courage we need to do it. Amen.**

Prayer – Betsy Conway, CSJ



John 17:21

Design by Ann M. Grady, CSJ



## Press Statement

CSJ Boston Communications Office

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June 7, 2020

### Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston grieve and cry out against racism.

BRIGHTON, MA: We, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, join with all who grieve and cry out against racism in all its forms. At this moment, heartbreak, frustration, fear, and outrage are but a few of the disquieting emotions resulting from the fatal arrest of George Floyd of Minneapolis. We pray in solidarity with the family of George Floyd and all who suffer deeply from the effects of this egregious act – not only in Minneapolis but throughout our country and our world.

Racism is America's original sin. It is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19 and until we address it, people of color will continue to die, and our nation will never heal. Racism, both the institutional racism which privileges some at the expense others and the daily acts of micro aggressions, hate, and discrimination diminishes us all.

The resilience and well-being of humanity depends upon dismantling these systemic, structural, and cultural realities of white supremacy, endemic to the fabric of our country. We commit ourselves to the creation of the culture where all people are treated as the sacred creation that they are.

Racism denies that most profound truth, that all of us are created in God's image and each of us is entitled to dignity and respect.

As women religious and their partners in mission, we acknowledge our own privilege and complicity in institutional racism. We pray for our nation's healing, yet we know we must do more. It is time for bold, decisive action – it is long past time to dismantle white privilege and rededicate ourselves to building God's beloved community. It is time to address the institutional racism that lives within our institutions and within ourselves. We call on the people of the United States to work with greater urgency to eliminate the systemic racism that infects the very soul of our nation.

As we continue to work to dismantle institutional racism, we are all asked to do the deep, ongoing inner work that anti-racism requires of us. This includes listening to, learning from, supporting, and elevating the black voices within and around us. We ask God's blessing on the struggle that lies ahead. We, as Sisters of St. Joseph and as individuals, must do better.



John 17:21

Design by Ann M. Grady, CSJ

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*The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston is a community of vowed apostolic women and lay associates with a contemplative stance toward life. Their mission is to realize the prayer of Christ, "That all may be one." They work for unity and reconciliation where there is brokenness helping people become whole and holy, individually and together. In community and prayerful contemplation they listen to the Spirit and move always toward love of God and love of neighbor without distinction. For more information visit [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org)*

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