



OFFICE OF
CATHOLIC CHARITIES &
SOCIAL CONCERNS

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Memo

To: All
From: Intercultural Committee on Access, Integration, and Mission (ICAIM)
Date: August 18, 2023
Subject: ***September 9: Memorial of St. Peter Claver***

September 9th is the Feast Day of Saint Peter Claver, a Jesuit missionary known as the patron saint of slaves, African missions, and interracial justice. The Intercultural Committee on Access, Integration and Mission (ICAIM) celebrates St. Peter Claver for his dedication to working with enslaved persons, baptizing, and teaching the faith to over 300,000 enslaved persons during a time when the capturing and enslaving of Africans continued throughout the Americas. We invite you join us in celebrating St. Peter Claver!

History: St. Peter Claver spent his life serving enslaved Africans who were brought to Cartagena, Colombia during the 17th century. Despite Pope Paul III's repeated condemnations of slavery during the previous century, European colonists continued capturing and enslaving Africans to work on plantations and in mines. St. Claver dedicated himself to his ministry, bringing aid to enslaved persons despite his own health problems and language barriers. He boarded every slave ship that entered the harbor. His life of humility and penance led to miraculous occurrences - as when he healed the sick with the touch of his cloak or appeared surrounded by a supernatural light during his hospital visits.

Resources: Following the USCCB's pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the bishops issued an urgent call for a "genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society" (p. 4). In response to this call, the Intercultural Committee on Access, Integration and Mission provides the following resources to help you pray for the conversion and transformation regarding racism in our communities, country, and the world:

- Prayers of the Faithful for September 9th
- Prayer to Overcome Racism
- St. Peter Claver Prayer Service

Respectfully,

Intercultural Committee on Access, Integration and Mission



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PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL¹

1. For our country, that we may be united in building a society in which all people have the opportunity to live with dignity and hope, especially the poor, immigrants and refugees, the elderly, and the unborn, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That all people may live in greater harmony and work to put an end to racial prejudice and discrimination, believing that God can heal every wound and right every wrong, let us pray to the Lord.
3. That all would work to eradicate racism from every civic and social institution, let us pray to the Lord.
4. That we would see Christ in the people we meet and open wide our hearts to them, let us pray to the Lord.
5. That God would bless the efforts of all who seek to deepen understanding, foster reconciliation, and publicly witness to the Church's commitment to ending racism, we pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially those who have lost their lives because of racial hatred and a disregard for the sanctity of human life, that they might know eternal joy in the presence of Jesus Christ and all the Saints, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM²

MARY, FRIEND, AND MOTHER TO ALL, through your through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters, and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

Amen.

St. Peter Claver Prayer Service (see attached)

¹ Adapted from the USCCB's "Memorial of St. Peter Claver Prayers of the Faithful" (2021);

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/memorial-st-peter-claver-prayers-faithful>

² USCCB's "Prayer to Overcome Racism" (2020); <https://www.usccb.org/resources/prayer-overcome-racism-0>



Prayer Service

FOR THE FEAST DAY OF ST. PETER CLAVER

The following prayer service is an adaptation of the Liturgy of the Hours, and can be prayed individually or with a group.



Leader: God, + come to my assistance.
All: Lord, make haste to help me.
Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” *or another appropriate hymn may be sung.*

PSALM 15

Leader: My life is at the service of the Gospel;
God has given me this gift of his grace.

A: LORD, who may abide in your tent,
and dwell on your holy mountain?
Whoever walks without fault;
who does what is upright,
and speaks the truth from his heart.

B: Whoever does not slander with his tongue;
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
who casts no slur on a friend,
who looks with scorn on the wicked,
but honors those who fear the LORD.

A: Who keeps an oath, whatever the cost,
who lends no money at interest,
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a one shall never be shaken.

B: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: My life is at the service of the Gospel;
God has given me this gift of his grace.

REVELATION 15:3-4

Leader: My sheep will hear my voice;
and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

A: Great and wondrous are your works,
O Lord, Almighty God!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

B: Who would not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?

A: For you alone are the Holy One,
for all nations will come,
And they will worship before you,
for your righteous deeds have been revealed.

B: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: My sheep will hear my voice;
and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

READING (PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8)

Reader: Whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

RESPONSORY

Reader: Just is the Lord, in justice he delights.
All: Just is the Lord, in justice he delights.

Reader: He looks with favor on the upright man;
All: in justice he delights.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
All: Just is the Lord, in justice he delights.

CANTICLE OF MARY (LUKE 1:46-55)

Leader: I tell you most solemnly, what you did for the least of men you did for me.
Come, my Father delights in you; receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

All: My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;
for behold, from this day forward,
all generations will call me blessed.

For the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
for those who fear him.

He has made known the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has exalted those who are lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
mindful of his mercy,
Even as he promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: I tell you most solemnly, what you did for the least of men you did for me.
Come, my Father delights in you; receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray to the Father, the source of all holiness, and ask him to lead us to holiness of life through the example and intercession of his saints.

Leader: Holy Father, you want us to be called your children and truly to be such;
All: grant that your holy Church may proclaim you throughout the world.

Leader: Holy Father, you want us to walk worthily and please you in all we do;
All: let us abound in doing good works.

Leader: Holy Father, you have reconciled us to yourself through Christ;
All: preserve us in your name so that all may be one.

Leader: Holy Father, stir up in your children a zeal for justice and charity;
All: that every ethnic group and each nation can live in harmony and peace.

Leader: Holy Father, forgive the offenses of every sinner;
All: let the dead perceive the light of your countenance.

All: Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: O God, who made Saint Peter Claver a slave of slaves
and strengthened him with wonderful charity and patience
as he came to their help,
grant, through his intercession,
that, seeking the things of Jesus Christ,
we may love our neighbor in deeds and in truth.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
All: Amen.

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