Racism Has No Place in our Presidential Campaign

The Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC) Steering Committee, through the efforts of our Racial and Immigrant Justice Team, seeks to promote within the Marianist Family a deeper understanding of racism. We are also committed to do what we can to eliminate racism.

We did so most recently through our statement, Calling the Marianist Family to Renounce the Sin of Racism. In carrying out our mission, we call attention to situations in our society where racist attitudes or actions are being promoted. Unfortunately this is happening now in our presidential campaign.

Racism is a festering plague on our society and on our democratic political system that contributes to multiple types of injustice and to misconceptions about the kind of dignity each person needs and is due. Racism attracts people into dangerous and inappropriate ways of thinking and acting that destroy the very fabric of the rights and freedoms we hold dear in the United States of America.

We must call out all political leaders in our country who promote racism. Racist actions, remarks, innuendoes, or jokes must be condemned as inappropriate. Examples of racist attitudes in the presidential campaign include the following comments:

- Charging that a judge, who was born in the US, was biased because of his Mexican heritage;
- Expressing slurs against the Mexican people who have come to this country;
- Encouraging the mistreatment of protesters at rallies who were black or from other minority groups;
- Advocating the exclusion of Muslims from the US.

These racist actions and words give permission for racism to grow. This is wrong and has no place in our political discourse.

We recommend that voters find ways to more positively embrace the values of racial diversity and inclusivity rather than the politics of exclusion and division. We encourage everyone to consider involvement in citizen efforts like Civilize It, which aims to promote respectful dialogue during the current election season. Another excellent resource is Faithful Citizenship from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. It provides guidance on the political responsibility of Catholics in light of Catholic Social Teaching.

The Marianist Social Justice Collaborative does not support candidates for political office. However we do want to clearly state that racism promoted by a political leader has to be named and opposed. We encourage all in the Marianist Family and others we reach to speak out against the past and any future racist actions and words that a presidential candidate, or any candidate for public office, may express.

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Steering Committee
MSJC Racial and Immigrant Justice Team
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