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Volume 5, Issue 7 – June 19, 2020

Today is June 19th, or Juneteenth, a day that marks and celebrates the end of slavery in the state of Texas, and is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth celebrates an important step in our nation's history, but also reminds us of the great work that is left to do in understanding and combatting systemic racism in the U.S. and learning how to take actions to be truly anti-racist.

Events over the past month in the United States have yet again highlighted the long standing need to more deeply explore and fight to end systemic racism and prejudice in our world, particularly in the U.S. This begins with education, and being more aware of the issues at hand, but it doesn't end there. As many Black leaders have stated in recent weeks, "silence is complicity," and by failing to take action, inequality and racism will persist.

The resources below come from a variety of sources, including many that were shared by Br. Michael Maher. We encourage you to use these resources to learn about the issues and find ways to take action.

Education Resources and Links

[Duke University Anti-racism Curriculum](#)

[Police Involved Shootings In U.S.](#)- An article from CNN describing data from police involved shootings in the United States.

[Racial Justice Resources](#)

The following list of resources were compiled by staff at Iona Prep in New York and include books, movies and film resources, as well as ways to advocate for and financially support organizations fighting for racial justice.

[Racism in the Criminal Justice System \(Washington Post\)](#)

This article contains links to various writings, studies and data sources that describe the racist tendencies of the criminal justice system in the United States.

[US Conference of Catholic Bishops- Combatting Racism](#)

This link from USCCB includes a statement against racism along with many resources in learning about, praying for and advocating for racial justice.

Action Items

[Responding to Racism](#)- Responding to Racism: A Lasallian Dialogue will take place online Thursday, June 25. Four Lasallian educators—a global languages professor, a multicultural affairs director, a Christian ethics professor and a chief diversity officer—will help participants understand and learn how to act in response to systemic racism. Click on the link above to register.

We CAN Breathe: Reclaiming the Power of Breath with Zoe Flowers

(From The National Resource Center for Reaching Victims)

“There's so much going on. Our chests are tight. We are experiencing fear and confusion. It may be hard for you to sleep, be present, and keep a handle on all you need to do. And we still have "jobs" to do. It is our pleasure to present another set of healing sessions with advocate, healer, writer, poet, and filmmaker Zoe Flowers . Zoe provided almost 1500 advocates with her virtual wellness sessions from March to May 2020.”

What White People Can do for Racial Justice (Medium.com)

This link contains 75 items of how Whites can learn about and advocate for racial justice.

Br. Rice Chicago Supports Frontline Workers

Mike Dolan, Br. Rice Chicago



The Robotics Club and Advocacy Club at Brother Rice Chicago has teamed up again to make face shields for workers in the hospitals located in marginalized neighborhoods--the same neighborhoods hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic in Chicago.

Thanks to Brother Rice alumnus Dr. Henry Spagnola '09, a resident physician for Amita Health, who was over 150 face shields were made and delivered to hospitals in neighborhoods most in need of the equipment.

Every day for the last month, a Robotics Club member has come into school to operate the 3-D printers and put together the full face shields, all this while still working on their e-learning assignments. We were honored to have Dr. Spagnola come in to tell our students about how personal protective equipment is used, and why they are necessary to help overwhelmed medical staff in the hospitals.

The idea for making the shields came from our 11th grade Advocacy student leader Conor (pictured below). He saw the need, and as a member of the Robotics Club, asked if he could help make personal protective equipment for hospitals in our city's poorest neighborhoods.

As of now, we have made over 200 face shields, are still making about fifteen every day, and will continue to make them throughout the summer if needed.



Conor, '21, and Paul, '22 making face shields for front line workers.

Providing in Pandemic

Dandy Pilon, Guadalupe Regional Middle School



Guadalupe Regional Middle School in Brownsville, Texas has been running ongoing food distribution for its families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, we teamed up with the Brownsville Wellness Coalition (BWC) and hosted their public food distribution for the larger community.

Our school and BWX helped to provide families with:

- 220 nonperishable bags
- 220 BWC produce bags
- 220 bags of farm-fresh onions
- 100 bags of extra produce

Our principal's commercial farm supplied the onions, while BWC provided the other supplies.



Serving the “Marginalized Marginalized”

Mia Mirassou, Palma School

PALMA SCHOOL
KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

Palma School has stepped up deliveries to the homeless— in person on the street—while honoring social distancing. Students and parents have delivered tons of goods to the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel at Palma. Faculty members deliver these goods to our brothers and sisters on the street growing in number and in fear. The virus has further marginalized the marginalized in fear of these “lepers” being more contagious. The Palma family is grateful for those dedicated to the dignity of all people.



One of the community's heroes, a nurse with the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System (SVMH) team, shared that her son, a senior at Palma High School, worked with his fellow students to organize a donation effort to support agricultural workers who are isolating safely through the Grower-Shipper Association housing program. Issac and his fellow classmates, together with Ms. Mirassou of Palma, dropped off items at SVMH that they'd collected, including snacks, toiletries, clothing, and other supplies to be shared with those being housed. They also included personal letters conveying best wishes and thoughts to those impacted by COVID-19.

Action Alerts

[170 Actions on Climate Change](#) – This resource from the U.N. provides 10 direct actions for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) that individuals can take daily to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.

[Combat Human Trafficking](#)- Despite the pandemic, human traffickers are still thriving in many locations. Click on the link to read the May USCCB newsletter on how you can learn about and become an advocate in the fight against human trafficking.

[World Refugee Day](#)- June 20th celebrates World Refugee Day. This link contains information surrounding the day, links to resources and webinars on U.S. refugee policy and other action items on how you can advocate for refugees.

Links

[Edmund Rice International June Newsletter](#)

[“Digging into Laudato Si” - National Catholic Reporter](#)