



# SPARK NOTES

## HONORING BLACK HISTORY BY BUILDING A FUTURE WITHOUT RACISM

From our Direction Statement

*Both individually and corporately, we will examine our lifestyle in light of Laudato Sí's message that the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor are one. Faithful to our Dominican charism, we remain committed to the pursuit of truth in order to face and address the injustice of racism, war, exploitation of women and children, exclusion of migrants, and all other threats to peace.*

**Racism impacts all these issues and is deeply embedded in the policies, practices, and institutions that structure daily life. Our commitment to justice calls us to work to dismantle racism.**



### Did you know?

Black babies are more than twice as likely to die than white babies.

[Office of Minority Health](#)

In the U.S. white households have more than six times the median wealth of black households.

[NCRC](#)

Voter suppression laws and practices have targeted Black communities, shaping access to political power for generations.

[Brennan Center for Justice](#)

Black adults in the U.S. are still imprisoned at roughly five times the rate of white adults, despite similar types of criminal behavior.

[PEW](#)



# SPARK NOTES

*Justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other — that my liberty depends on you being free too.*

Barack Obama

*The equality of all people rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Prayer

*Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves.*

Sisters of Mercy

**Black  
History  
Month**



**WATCH:** Comedian David Nihill's video short where he explains how the "grapefruit ladies" in Ireland helped end apartheid in South Africa through standing up and speaking out for one another.

Watch the 3-minute clip here on YouTube:

[Video](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO\\_bdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ)

