



THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Luke 6:31

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.”

1 John 4:20-21

SISTERS TAKE CORPORATE STAND ON DISMANTLING RACISM (2025)

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, choose to live the Gospel in the prophetic spirit of Francis of Assisi and our foundress, Mother Francis Bachmann. With Jesus Christ as Brother, we live as sister with one another, with the entire human family, and with all creation. Calling ourselves and one another to continuous conversion of heart, we commit ourselves to a life of contemplation, poverty, and humility. Seeking to participate in the Spirit’s action in the world, we direct our personal and corporate resources to the promotion of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Constitutions

Ministry #22 – Because the Gospel calls us to be peacemakers, we actively work to overcome the divisions which separate persons, groups, and nations. We honestly search out and seek to address the violence and injustice within ourselves, our relationships, and our structures.

Ministry #23 – United with our sisters and brothers, we work for systemic change in institutions and organizations that perpetuate conditions that are inconsistent with the Gospel message of peace with justice.

Directive

#23.1 – As sisters in the human family, we speak out against political, ecclesial, and corporate systems that engender violence or abuse human rights.

CORPORATE STAND

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and their companions are committed to the Gospel values of human dignity, justice, and love. Our U.S. bishops define racism saying, “Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful.” (*Open Wide Our Hearts*, 3) We recognize that racial discrimination damages human dignity, divides communities, and contradicts our fundamental values of justice and respect for all persons. Racism is imbedded deep in the fabric of our country and deep in our own hearts. Even with all the work that we have done as sisters and companions to educate ourselves about racism, we acknowledge that racism is so ingrained in our society and world that we need to dismantle it piece by piece, day by day, one action at a time.

RATIONALE

- Racist structures perpetuate intergenerational disadvantages in education, wealth, health, and opportunity.
- Racism denies fundamental human dignity and equality, violating basic principles of human rights.
- Racism inflicts substantial psychological harm on targeted communities through persistent stress and trauma.
- Dismantling racism creates more inclusive societies where all individuals can reach their full God-given potential.
- Addressing racism helps heal historical injustices and creates pathways for reconciliation.
- As Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and companions, we are called to take the necessary risks to be a healing, compassionate presence.

STATEMENT

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia take a Corporate Stand on Dismantling Racism in ourselves, our congregation, our nation, and our world. We acknowledge our responsibility to confront systemic racism through prayer, education, and advocacy. We commit to examining our own biases while working to create equitable policies, to amplifying diverse voices, and to building authentic partnerships that advance racial justice. In a spirit of continuous conversion, we also commit to speaking up with compassion when we observe words or actions that may perpetuate racial bias, recognizing that authentic transformation requires both accountability and courage.

ACTION STEPS

- Participate, when able, in local witness events calling for an end to racism.
- Continue to examine biases and to learn about racism.
- Vote to elect those who acknowledge systemic racism and have plans for addressing disparities in education, housing, healthcare, and criminal justice.
- Consider volunteering with organizations who are engaged in racial justice work.
- Advocate for anti-racist policies in local organizations and businesses.
- Pray daily for an end to systemic racism.