

Reset the Table



An Introductory 4-Session Reckoning On RACISM, WHITE PRIVILEGE AND RACIAL JUSTICE

VIRTUAL SESSIONS • Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2020 • 6:00 – 7:30 pm

WE NEED TO RESET RACIAL JUSTICE.

That's what Franklin and Hamilton didn't do at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 when they opted to support the "great compromise" – the formation of one nation in exchange for slavery's continuation. Now it's our responsibility to undo that injustice, to start fresh, beginning with the acceptance of Blacks as persons and as co-equals who enjoy all the entitlements of a free society that Whites take for granted. That's the hard reset for racial justice.

"Reset the table" also means fetch a plate because another family member is coming to dinner. We're breaking bread ALL together, in fellowship and good banter that bring enjoyment and connection to one-another, where everyone is valued and celebrated. We're expanding our "community" table.

The table refers to altar: We're seated around the Table of Our Lord. One body, one bread where we're all brothers and sisters. Secularly, table is symbolic for "power arrangement." Who's at the table? Who makes decisions? If you're not at the table, "then you're on the menu." When all are at the table, then it is inclusive with equal power distribution.

OUTLINE

Session 1 – Very short history on how we got here; racism defined

Session 2 – White privilege; non-acceptance and exclusion of Blacks' and other minorities' personhoods

Session 3 – White supremacy; rise and justification of racism; institutional racism

Session 4 – The Catholic Church history regarding racism; teaching on racism; a vision of mission

FORMAT

The sessions are authored by Mr. Fessahaye Mebrahtu, Director, Milwaukee Archdiocese Office of Black Catholic and Ethnic Ministries. The framework will consist of a short story on the topic and links for two readings with two questions for discussion.

PARTICIPATION

Small-group discussions through ZOOM. Participants, organized into groups of six (6) people, remain in-tact throughout the four sessions.

An action group will be formed in November for those participants who want to do more.

SPONSORED BY All Saints Catholic Parish, Human Concerns Commission, 4060 N. 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53209

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