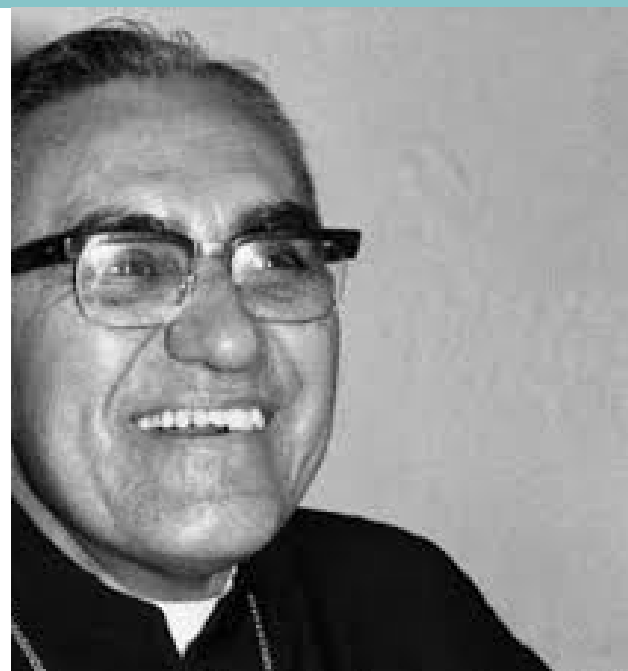


World Water Day is March 22

What does water mean to you? The theme for World Water Day this year is, **Valuing Water**. Join the UN to celebrate the gift of water, to learn more about the 2.2 billion people who live without access to clean water and to share what water means to you.

Check out the [World Water Day website](#)

In 2005, the sisters in Chardon, Rome and Kerala, India took a Corporate Stance on Water for Life. As Sisters of Notre Dame, we proclaim "water as a basic right for life," and pledge to reverence water as a sacred gift. We act to ensure water as a right for all, especially the poor and marginalized.



Feast of St. Oscar Romero March 24

"All of us, if we really want to know the meaning of conversion and of faith and confidence in another, must become poor, or at least make the cause of the poor our own inner motivation. That is when one begins to experience faith and conversion: when one has the heart of the poor, when one knows that financial capital, political influence, and power are worthless, and that without God we are nothing.

To feel that need of God is faith and conversion."

Homily, February 18, 1979



Corporate Stance Against Racism

Responding to the Signs of the Times, we have been focusing on racism, and a community response to the racial injustices that have come to the surface of our society in such a profound way.

Since July 2020 we have held 19 virtual conversations around the broad topic of Rooting out Racism. These virtual conversations have been open to the entire Province and over 350 sisters and associates.

We have used articles and videos to help educate ourselves about white privilege, becoming more aware of the issues of oppression that people of color endure, and what we need to do to work toward anti-racism.

Anti-racism means we are working to change systems, organizational structures, policies, practices and attitudes so that power is redistributed and shared equitably among people.

Some of the major themes we have heard from people who have participated in the conversations include:

- a real awakening to what white privilege is and how complicit all of us are in the systemic racism that exists in our society
- feelings of sadness, anger, embarrassment, and frustration. And, also feelings of gratitude that this community is becoming more aware of racism, and hopefulness in the things we can do to make lasting change
- how far we have yet to go to become truly anti-racist, and glad that we have, as a community, taken these steps of increased awareness through education and open, honest conversations
- that each one of us has a place and role in working toward creating a more equitable society
- that we need to begin now with real actions to work for racial justice

The week of February 22 the sisters cast their votes for the Corporate Stance Against Racism through Survey Monkey. There were 438 responses, 338 via Survey Monkey and 100 paper copies through the community coordinators. There were 435 Yes responses and 3 No responses.

This passage by an overwhelming majority means that we will now move forward with the creation of a committee to discern next steps and an action plan to implement the stance.

We are very grateful to all of you for your participation in this process and we are excited to move forward in this important work to be a community that practices being anti-racist.

JPIC National Office

Co-Directors

Ann Clark

Katie Drager

Co-Chairs

Sr. Joyce Bates, SND

Sr. Kathleen Ryan, SND

ANTI-RACISM IS THE
COMMITMENT
TO FIGHT RACISM
WHEREVER YOU FIND IT INCLUDING
IN YOURSELF. —IJEOMA OLUO

Sisters of Notre Dame JPIC National Office