

The Association of U. S. Catholic Priests invites you to attend a Zoom Discussion Series on Anti-Racism. It includes a presentation followed by a discussion period. The program is a repeat of part of the three-year strategic plan to combat racism provided by the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests Anti-racism Team. All are welcome and you may invite others to join. You need not have attended previous sessions.

**Monday Aug. 17, 24, 31, & Sept. 7, 2026 (8:00-9:30 PM EDT)**

Zoom link, syllabus, and reminder will be provided in the near future

The session will be moderated by Rev. John Judie and Susan and Paul Sherman.

**Contact Paul ([sherman.paul@twc.com](mailto:sherman.paul@twc.com)) to register.**

## Syllabus

We will particularly concentrate on the material marked with \*\*.

Week 1: How and when did racism start?

- **Gomes Eanes de Zurara** (Chief Chronicler of the Kingdom of Portugal)—published *The Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea* in **1453**. This was later seen as the inaugural defense of African slave-trading. The manuscript circulated among the royal court, scholars, investors, and captains, leading to the expansion of the slave trade to the [Indian Ocean](#) during the 1490s. This made “race” a social construct.

**\*\*Watch: The Lie that invented racism (18:13)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_biewen\\_the\\_lie\\_that\\_invented\\_racism?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_biewen_the_lie_that_invented_racism?language=en)

- **Doctrine of Discovery** -- a principle of international law dating from the late 15th century. Its roots stem from papal decrees issued by **Pope Nicholas V (1452) & Pope Alexander VI (1493)** that specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization, exploitation, and takeover of non-Christian territories and peoples.

**\*\*Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3gF7ULVrl4> (5:59)

**Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oS3DjBvhT2s> (11:37) video on the legal interpretation of the Doctrine in the United States.

**Read:** <http://gorhistory.com/hist420/DoctrineDiscovery.html>

**Read:**

<https://sojo.net/articles/vatican-considers-rescinding-doctrine-discovery-response-request-indigenous-leaders>

Week 2: America's role

- **America's Original Sin**

**\*\*Watch:** **In the White Man's Image** (56:26)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUCIMqIztd0>

The story of the attempt to assimilate Native Americans into white culture by educating them at boarding schools.

- **Monroe Doctrine**—a United States foreign policy position (1823) that opposed European colonialism in the Western Hemisphere. It held that any intervention in the political affairs of the Americas by foreign powers was a potentially hostile act against the U.S.

**Watch:** <https://www.britannica.com/video/221433/Just-the-facts-Monroe-Doctrine> (2:44)

- **Manifest Destiny**—Propounded during the second half of the 19th century, Manifest Destiny held that it was the divinely ordained right of the United States to expand its borders to the Pacific Ocean and beyond. The term is usually attributed to newspaper editor **John O’Sullivan** in 1845. This was inspired by the Doctrine of Discovery.

**Watch:** <https://www.britannica.com/video/222022/did-you-know-Manifest-Destiny> (2:07)

### Week 3: Slavery in America

- **The Atlantic slave trade: What too few textbooks told you**

**\*\*Watch:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q\\_4JVg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg) (5:38)

- **Slavery in America**

**\*\*Read / Watch:** <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery> (4:02)

- **Reconstruction explained in five questions and answers**

**Watch:**

<https://www.britannica.com/video/225211/United-States-history-reconstruction-five-questions> (3:50)

- **Jim Crow Laws**

**Read:** <https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

### Week 4: Racism now

- **Implicit Bias**

**\*\*Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z72MHd0y-bs> (6:19)

Take the test: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/user/agg/blindspot/indexrk.htm>

- **Systemic Racism Explained**

**\*\*Watch:** [https://ed.ted.com/best\\_of\\_web/j7Tzdz8r](https://ed.ted.com/best_of_web/j7Tzdz8r) (4:23)

- **The Invisibility of White Privilege**

**\*\*Listen:** <https://www.apa.org/news/podcasts/speaking-of-psychology/white-privilege>  
(24:49) with transcript.

### **Other highly suggested videos**

- *I Can't Breathe / Georgetown University (5:23)*

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2020/07/24/i-cant-breathe/>

A very moving video by Georgetown University student athletes.

- *Why I love a country that once betrayed me / George Takei (15:45)*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/george\\_takei\\_why\\_i\\_love\\_a\\_country\\_that\\_once\\_betrayed\\_me?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/george_takei_why_i_love_a_country_that_once_betrayed_me?language=en)

- *How to deconstruct racism, one headline at a time / Baratunde Thurston (16:42)*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/baratunde\\_thurston\\_how\\_to\\_deconstruct\\_racism\\_one\\_headline\\_at\\_a\\_time?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/baratunde_thurston_how_to_deconstruct_racism_one_headline_at_a_time?language=en)

- *We Are America / John Cena (3:34)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IApvU6SMq-8>

Best if you watch it twice.

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