

Black Lives Matter

As Catholics, as Christians, should we be supporting the Black Lives Matter movement you might be wondering? Yes, **ALL** lives matter, so why say “black lives matter? “We say this because the lives of black people in this country and elsewhere, have historically been devalued. They were even counted as 3/5 of a person in our Constitution.

We are not saying that anyone in particular is a racist, though some may be. We are saying that the systemic racism – the injustice in our judicial system, in our educational and housing systems, and in our health care system needs to end now.

Why are more blacks and other people of color contracting coronavirus and dying disproportionately to whites? Why is poverty more rampant among blacks and other people of color? Why are people of color more likely to end up in our prisons than whites?

One’s race does not make one more dangerous or lazier (as some believe) than anyone else. One’s race does not make one more intelligent or more deserving than anyone else. Systems have deprived people of equal access to education, healthcare, good neighborhoods, and economic opportunity. These **systems** need to change.

Black lives matter. Jesus stood up for the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the Samaritans, the lepers, and anyone who was pushed aside by society in his day. We are attempting to do the same thing. Nobody has ever said in words, or in government policies, that white lives don’t matter. So, there is no need to say that they do. We all agree. White Lives matter. No one is discounting us.

But we have indeed said that Black lives don’t matter by our policies, by our biases, by our practices. It is time for that to change. We need to support all of our brothers and sisters, no matter the color of their skin. That is our Christian call.

What color is God’s skin? It is black, brown, yellow, it is red, it is white.

Everyone’s the same in the good Lord’s sight.