



Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2015 – What would Dr. King Do?

Each January Americans honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., perhaps **the greatest civil rights activist of our times**. We are reminded of our country's history of racial discrimination and Dr. King's movement to end segregation in housing, employment, public transportation, voting rights, and discrimination reinforced in federal and state laws. We have honored this federal holiday as "a day on, not a day off" by engaging in community service. It is the perfect time to introduce our children to this American hero and to the concept of service.

Last year Civil Rights Lawyer Michelle Alexander spelled out how **the U.S. criminal justice system operates more like a caste system than a system of crime prevention** or control and were given license to do so by the U.S. Supreme Court "stop and frisk" ruling. *"How can we put this... to people to know that this is not just a black or racial issue, it's an issue for all Americans who care about democracy and equity....We are killing our own country's future..."*

Randall Robinson (Anti-Apartheid Activist)

This year as the country struggles to make sense of the multiple killings of African Americans we, as Christians, are challenged even more to not ignore what has happened but to understand the current crisis and what needs to be done. A study by Research Fellow Richard Rothstein [Economic Policy Institute, Wash., D.C.], details how throughout the last century a series of **discriminatory policies at the local, state and federal levels created the ghettos we see today**. Mr. Rothstein presents how we have a segregated nation by design, primarily due to two policies. First, public housing was segregated by the federal government; what were previously somewhat integrated neighborhoods in urban areas were separated into separate black and white public housing.

Then, in the 1950s **as suburbs developed, regulatory support of policies in real estate and financial sectors promoted segregation**. The federal government subsidized white residents of St. Louis to move to the suburbs, but prohibited black residents from doing so. Government subsidized construction of many sub-divisions required that builders' bank loans be made on the condition that no homes be sold to blacks. Mr. Rothstein stresses that **the same dynamic that developed in St. Louis was happening in all major cities in the U.S.** He explains how black housing was restrictive and realtors literally panicked white owners, causing them to sell at very-reduced prices and resold to African Americans at higher prices because they had no other housing options. State-sponsored labor and employment discrimination reduced the incomes of African Americans relative to whites so they were hard-pressed to afford to live in decent suburbs. African Americans were excluded from good-paying jobs for most of the 20th century. Construction jobs during the housing boom in the suburbs in the 40s, 50s, and 60s were completely closed to African Americans because they could not be admitted to construction unions and the federal government certified the segregated unions. **White residents in places like Ferguson came to associate slum conditions with African Americans.**

"Understanding segregations' causes suggests remedies" [Rothstein]. Practical programs and regulatory strategies can address problems of Ferguson and similar communities, i.e. prohibit landlords from refusing to accept tenants whose rent is subsidized; require suburbs to repeal zoning ordinances that prohibit construction of housing that lower- or moderate-income residents (*white or black*) can afford; require every community to permit a fair share of its' housing development to low-income and minority populations; note/fight more recent trends of gentrification.

What would Dr. King do? We can be sure he would have continued to fight discriminatory federal and state laws and real estate policies that allowed practices of racism to continue. **What can we do?** Be mindful of practices dividing peoples, vote and take actions proposed. Act wherever possible. Pray! See *'The Making of Ferguson'* www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson

St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Oakland

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Baptism of Our Lord

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. Baptism is that sacrament which makes us adopted children of God. It is the door that opens us to the Church and makes us inheritors God's promise of salvation.

No one is born a Christian. One becomes a Christian (follower of Jesus Christ, the Son of God) through the sacrament of baptism. There is a misunderstanding among some folks, "since my parents are Christians, I too am a Christian." That is not the case. If a person has not received baptism, one does not become a Christian. Our Christian life begins with baptism and this Christian pilgrimage is accomplished at our death – our new birth into eternity with God in heaven.

Next week we celebrate Martin Luther King. On this occasion the reflections of Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, who is African-American, on the "racial divide" in the United States calls for serious reflection and action. A full text of it can be read at: Cathoicnews.com

The bishop concluded his reflection with 14 things Catholics could do on race matters. Among them were going to Mass at least one weekday a week to pray for guidance on ways to bridge the racial divide; praying the rosary weekly with one's family for the intention of ending racial conflict and prejudice; examining one's conscience monthly to acknowledge acts that reinforce racial division; initiating an effort to get to know police officers, thanking them for their service and helping young people get to know the police and vice versa; "break the ice, start the conversation" with someone of a different racial background; and watching movies that explore racial issues, mentioning "The Help," "The Butler," "Selma" and "Lincoln." On the topic of slavery, Bishop Braxton recommended "Twelve Years a Slave" over "Gone with the Wind," which, he said, offered "a completely romanticized presentation of what the evil of slavery was actually like." (From Catholic News service)

Father Augustine



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Mission Statement

We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.

Kindly keep the following parishioners in your prayers as they have been placed in **Hospice care**: Hortense Atkins and Marilyn La Placa.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Patty Wiesner, Lexi Venema, Mary Flynn, Tom Hayes, Russell Wikander, Alice Atkinson, Rose Knapp, Stephanie Sauder-Andrade, Rose Domaguing, Madeleine Shannon, Matilda Maes, Mary Pavao, Claudia Johnson, Carmon Woodyard.

And those who have died:

George Shaw, Cora Jose, Jeanne Harold Boxley, Kay Irwin, Timothy Michael Solovieff, Toby Burditt, Juanita Morris, Kristina Velarde.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 10th, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Suzy Arnhart (-)

Sunday, January 11th, 2015 8 a.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, January 11th, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

William King (-)

Sunday, January 11th, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

January 3rd and 4th, 2015: \$ 2,578.50 (no EFT)

January 1st, 2015 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) \$ 1,057.00 (no EFT)

No Second Collection this weekend; however, there will be a Second Collection the weekend of January 17-18, 2015 for the annual Oakland Diocese Seminary Collection. Information brochures and Seminary Collection Envelopes are in the vestibule, pews, and the 'Giving Table.' Thank you in advance for your support of the education and formation of the next crop of young men training to become priests to serve the People of God in the Diocese of Oakland.

We will continue our Bible Study this Sunday, January 11 2015, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Rectory dining room. All are welcome. Please bring your Holy Bible, a pen and note pad.

In the Powerful Name of Jesus,

Fr. Freddie Thomas

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:30 a.m.

Communion Service

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4 p.m.

Please come and join us every Tuesday morning at St. Augustine's, combining elements of Taizé music, contemplative prayer, and liturgy of the hours. The service will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will last approximately 25 minutes.

No prior experience or training is necessary in order to participate; all that is needed is a desire to meet with a small group to spend time in prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Schaeffer at lilac52@gmail.com or [415-935-1729](tel:415-935-1729)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For Adults

Do you think that God was "well pleased by your actions in recent weeks? Why?

For Children

What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?

Art and Environment Update:

Please take home poinsettias this weekend and next weekend.

The environment change from Christmas to Ordinary Time will be Saturday, January 17th at 10:30 a.m. until done.

The change from Ordinary Time to Lent will be Monday, February 16th, at 6 p.m.

There will be refreshments at both occasions.

Please join members of the Prayer Tree to pray "Rosary for Peace" on the 1st Sundays of the month.

Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 a.m. on following days in 2015: February 1st, March 1st, April 12th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th.