

Know Justice, Know Peace Retreat

Some of the feedback from the Know Justice, Know Peace:

The Jesuit retreat: "Know Justice, Know Peace", gently guided me toward a difficult realization: having been raised white in America, socialized me to be implicitly racist. I learned that it is not my fault; but is my responsibility, as a Catholic Christian and a US citizen, to take action within myself and my community to work toward becoming antiracist. Studying together with fellow parishioners provided a space of love and understanding, as we grew together through sharing our journeys as white people and people of color. We discussed hard truths about our American History and Catholic Church History that we were not taught as children. We committed to support education for children that will discuss these truths. "The truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). We came to see that racism opposes the order of Eucharist. The Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our faith, completely defies the logic of racism. As "His Body"; we are called to embrace with love and hope those who, in their bodies are despised and marginalized, even as we embrace with love and forgiveness those whose sins spawn conditions for the suffering and oppression of others. As we reverence and celebrate the gift of the Eucharist, we rejoice in the gift of our diversity that is made one in Christ's body - a sign of hope and consolation. We helped each other come up with ways we can each work toward antiracism. I personally came to deeply embrace this truth: All I have and all I own, God has given to me. I ask that He do with it what is His will, through His love and grace. My prayer is that all of you reading this will consider taking this retreat and growing toward antiracism. SJ Parishioner since 1987.

"Having grown up in the South, I have been exploring my roots and looking for ways to reconcile my feelings. Discussing these things in a safe place was very comforting and helpful."

"Know Justice, Know Peace: A Jesuit Antiracism Retreat" was a challenging, but genuinely constructive, experience. It is seemingly intended for an audience composed primarily of white folks to educate them about the evils of racism and implicit and institutional bias. As a person of color, it is difficult to believe that anyone could be ignorant of these realities because for me, my relatives, and my community, they are unavoidable. Rather, it often seems that the claims of ignorance must be disingenuous or the blindness intentional. This retreat offered a forum in which friends and strangers could come together in a good way to discuss openly the disparate vantage points from which we experience racism. We shared an environment of trust in which we could honestly express our thoughts and feelings about the readings and the issues they raised and caringly confront obstacles to understanding that often go unrecognized."

"It was a well presented 4 week discussion retreat on Antiracism that enabled me to properly evaluate my current personal beliefs on racism in America, instill a desire to continue to educate myself on the subject AND what I can and need to do to love all people."

"Is our Saint Jude's community a Safe Space to Learn, Grow and be Understood? Personally, I do, but I am a white woman who grew up in this parish. What I learned: Awareness, vulnerability, and the ability to be uncomfortable. I met new friends I have seen for a million years, but now I know them by name. Consider the paradox of trust—making ourselves vulnerable to others while looking out for our own safety."