



Father Kevin
McKenna
Rector, Cathedral
Community

WELCOME TO THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY !

OUR PARISH ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Issue 56

February 5, 2021

RACIAL JUSTICE LENTEN JOURNEY

Kathleen McGrail, M.D.

Happy Super Bowl Weekend! I remember reading the autobiography of Tony Dungy several years ago: *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life*. He was the celebrated head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, whose team won the 41st Super Bowl. He was the first African American Coach to win the title. But much more impressive was that living in full view of the microscopic public eye, his integrity was always unwavering, his character was rock solid. The Indianapolis tight end Ben Utecht said: "He truly leads by example, and he does it consistently. This allows people to really see his faith every single day, and that's the most important thing." Another player, Hunter Smith, the punter for the Colts said: "In a profession that is full of reactions, Coach Dungy is a responder, and he responds as Christ would respond. Jesus didn't react to the people who came against Him; He responded to them in love, humility, and justice. That's how I feel Coach Dungy runs his family, his team and his life."

Every challenge we face on the journey to a better life has the potential to either take us down or make us stronger. We are called to be the same person in front of the crowd as we are behind the scenes. Are you the same person outside of work? Do you live differently around different peer groups? Does your environment determine your speech or is it consistent, no matter what? People who value integrity are the same in every situation. Popularity isn't important. Being able to bring credibility to the table regardless of the setting is what matters. We can only do this if we have integrity. This means being the same person in every environment.

We live in a fast-paced world. If we want a hamburger, we can wheel through Burger King and get one in less than five minutes. If we want a new song, we can download it in a matter of seconds.

The danger is this kind of world is too many people think they can do this with character. It takes a life-time of consistent behavior to develop character.

Tony Dungy is a remarkable example of a man who was the same with his team, his family and his associates. His belief in Jesus Christ would not permit him to compartmentalize his faith life from his professional life. With God's grace, we can do the same.

Christ's Peace...
Father Kevin

In 1950 my parents became the first homeowners in their respective families. As a WW II veteran, my father was able to access a veteran's mortgage program that made this possible. They lived in that home until near the end of their lives. And at their death, the equity built up in the home was passed on to us, their children. But if my parents had been Black and lived here, this option would not have been possible, since not a single dollar in that mortgage program was ever lent to Black veterans in Rochester.

My parents also benefitted from Social Security, and my father, from the right of workers to unionize, programs that excluded farm and domestic workers. When passed in the 1930s, the majority of African Americans worked in those jobs, so they had no right to a more secure retirement, nor to the right to bargain for better wages and working conditions.

These things are invisible to those of us who benefit from them, privileges created in the past but whose impact lives on. New privileges are still being added, incrementally advantaging some of us and disadvantaging others. This is what is known as "structural racism:" it's "normal," codified into law; "it's always been that way." The ongoing effect is repeated cycles of generational disadvantage, passed from parents to children like your father's curly hair or your mother's soft brown eyes, a cycle almost impossible to break.

But in 2021 how can white people be blamed for laws we did not ask for and did not make? Privileges we have, but didn't request? Things we don't know about and can't even see? Questions to which Rabbi Abraham Heschel would respond: "We are not all guilty, but we are all responsible." To that could be added: "All that is needed for the triumph of evil is for good men and women to do nothing."

If reading this today has made you more curious, triggered your sense of unfairness, the Pastoral Council invites you to take a next step: learn more by embarking on a Racial Justice Lenten Journey using the Ignatian 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. You can register at <https://ignatianspirituality.net/ignatian-racial-equity-challenge>, and enter "Cathedral Community" under "institution." You may do this alone or with family or friends, on your own time, at your own pace. In doing so, you will learn more about racism, where and how it shows up, and begin to see how we can individually and collectively hold each other accountable and responsible for change.

Once you sign up, you will get an email every day linking you to the learning materials for the day. You choose what you want to read, video to view, and when to do it.



The Cathedral Will Reopen for 3 Masses

Starting the week of February 14th, there will be 3 public masses, Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday, at 7:00 AM and 9:15 AM. A RESERVATION IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND THESE MASSES. To make a reservation, please call on Monday, starting at 8 AM, 254-3221 x107 or at our Cathedral website at www.cathedralcommunity.org. All necessary safety protocols will be observed, including hand sanitizing, wearing face masks and safe distancing. We will continue to monitor directives from the Diocese of Rochester, New York State and Monroe County and will hopefully be able to increase the number of weekend masses and size of the congregation. We are grateful for your patience and cooperation.

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 12:10 PM
NO reservations are necessary

REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sue Hoffman, SSJ

"Then the fever left her, and she waited on them." (Mark 1:31)

After being healed, Peter's mother-in-law returned to the cycle of work she abandoned when she became ill. This was the daily routine of household chores, nothing glamorous, nothing particularly exciting. However, there was a difference. Jesus had cured her. His touch now empowered her to serve.

Often my daily routine may seem just that – ordinary. Yet through my baptism, my every activity is different because God has touched me. Saint Teresa of Avila wrote that Christ has no other hands but ours, no other way to go through the world doing good. This week ask for the grace to recognize how Jesus can use my most routine activities to serve God's Kingdom.