

Deliver Us From Evil

*"Racism is not merely one sin among many, it is a radical evil dividing the human family."
 Brothers and Sisters to Us, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1979.*

We hear words of prejudice, fear, and anger in our communities.
 We see acts of discrimination and bloodshed in our streets.
 We cry out to you, O Lord, to deliver us from the evils of racism
 That cause great pain and anguish, dividing our nation.

Deliver us from the evil of active racism,
 The outspoken language of hate,
 The visible acts of violence,
 The clear calls to divide and destroy.
 Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of passive racism,
 The attitudes and actions that allow racism
 To continue to exist because too many people
 Say nothing and do nothing to stop active racism.
 Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of systemic racism,
 The biases that have long been a part of so many systems,
 In education, housing, health care, jobs, and in our court and penal structures,
 Creating disadvantages that remain for generations.
 Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

Deliver us from the evil of cultural racism,
 From attitudes of superiority and privilege,
 From stereotyping and devaluing a culture
 even as we appropriate cultural expressions
 Of those different from without sensitivity or concern..
 Deliver us from the evils of racism, O Lord.

In your mercy, O Lord, deliver us from the evils of racism
 So our communities can be renewed
 By the rejection of all prejudice, all violence,
 With a new awareness of those different from us
 And with deep respect for every human person,
 So the healing bonds of solidarity may grow
 And the common good may flourish in this land. Amen.

- Jane Deren, Ph.D.

