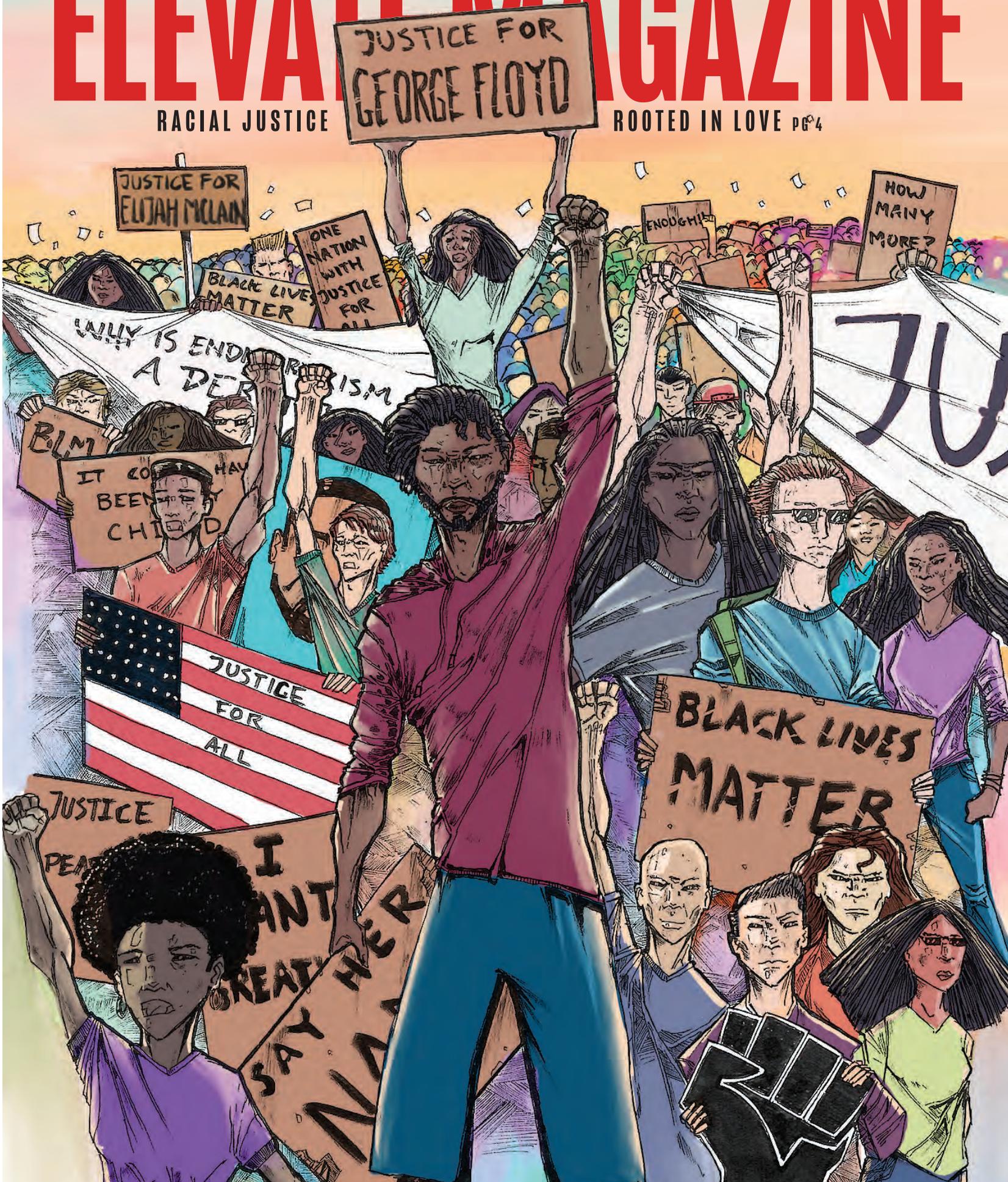


ELEVATE MAGAZINE

RACIAL JUSTICE

ROOTED IN LOVE PG 4



ROOTED IN LOVE

From the
ELEVATE EDITORS

Photograph by
ZION TAYLOR '23

AS A STAFF, OUR GOAL IS TO AMPLIFY AND INCLUDE THE VOICES THAT OFTEN GO UNHEARD AT REGIS JESUIT IN THE PURSUIT OF DIVERSITY, AUTHENTICITY, AND COMMUNITY BY LISTENING AND SHARING UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES FROM EVERY CORNER OF OUR CAMPUS.

In this issue, you will find firsthand student accounts of what it is like to be a young Black person in America right now and a brief history of the Black Lives Matter Movement. You will also hear from Dr. Kabadi on our Jesuit calling to matters of social justice and Regis Jesuit's response. Finally, you will find guidelines for white allyship in the BLM movement, as well as anti-racist resources. We hope that you approach this issue with sensitivity and compassion. We dedicate this issue to the lives of those lost to police brutality and race-based violence.

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, Sophomore Josiah Harris and senior Julian Alexander kneeled, with senior David Dody and junior Dallas Macias standing in solidarity. The team won 34-7 against Mountain Vista in their first game of the season.

"What I did was not to offend anyone. I simply did what I did to show what I believe in," **#26 JOSIAH HARRIS '23** said. "Placing my hands on their shoulders felt natural. I just wanted to support my brothers," **#3 DAVID DODY '21** said. "Kneeling isn't a sign of disrespect. I look at it more as an action to speak for the oppressed voices. There is a huge issue going on in the world, and it needs to be noticed. We just have to do right by each other and be with one another through the tough times," **#6 JULIAN ALEXANDER '21** said. "Regardless of what's going on in the world right now, our team is full of brothers, and we are going to have each others' backs no matter what," **#2 DALLAS MACIAS '22** said.





by Sabrina Vizurraga '22

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR BLIND SPOTS

Now more than ever we need our faith to lead the way

YOU LOG ONTO TWITTER AND SEE THE NAME 'GEORGE FLOYD' FOR THE FIRST TIME. You may not have known it five minutes ago, but it is a name that will be known for the rest of your life. It is a name that will cause division among your nation, your family, and your friends. With tears of frustration, you ask yourself, "Where is God?"

It is easy to turn away from faith in these turbulent times. It is easy to put the blame on another person and point fingers. But now, more than ever, we need faith and compassion. In the words of Bishop Robert Barron, "Racism is the original sin of America."

Racism persists today in many forms, including the unjust killings of unarmed black men and women. These killings have sparked controversy, and the nation has become polarized to the point where a conversation turns into a screaming match.

"The real problem is that we have blind spots. Trying to listen and get a feel for a broader range of experiences will help us," Fr. Jim Goeke SJ

said. Goeke, who has been teaching at Regis Jesuit since 2017, explained that throughout history Catholics have failed to love their brothers and sisters by ignoring Church teachings on the dignity of the human person.

This failure was seen when the Jesuits first arrived in America. They brought slaves along with them, even though the Pope publicly condemned slavery. In the Jim Crow Era, around 50 years ago, even the Catholic mass was segregated.

"The larger culture shapes our consciousness in ways that are not necessarily good," Goeke said. "Slavery was just seen as something like, 'Oh, this is something that we do.' It is important to have other voices."

According to Goeke, a challenge today is not sharing the same set of reliable facts.

"If we can't identify what kind of reality we are talking about, it's hard to come to the ability to grow,"



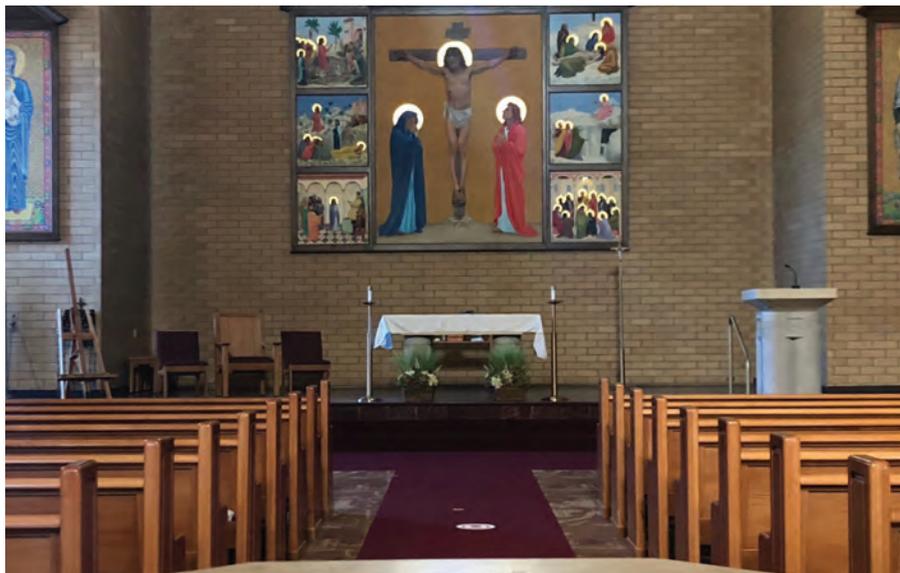
Fr. Goeke blesses the sacrament at sophomore mass on the football field. Due to Covid-19, mass has to be held outside. Photo by Riley Fitzgerald '21.

Goeke said.

Acknowledging that society was and still is stained with systematic injustice is the start of broadening your perspective and experiences.

"People struggle talking about systematic injustice. People say it's just some bad apples behaving badly, but

photo by Kam Bermudez '22



when you look at the statistics and policies, there are some [policies] that target those with a certain socio-economic background or racial background," Goeke said.

These policies include discrimination in the American education and housing systems.

According to Goeke, to foster an environment of faith and compassion, we need to start with reflecting on our daily experiences and listening to one another.

"The self-examination is really one of the ways Catholics can shape their conscience," Goeke said. "We base our assumptions on experiences. Our conscious formation is a factor of what values form the bedrock of our morals."

The practice of The Examen originated from St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is a form of prayer to review one's thoughts, words, and actions throughout the day. In this prayer, one not only reflects on his or her day, but also asks for repentance and resolution for any actions that hurt another person. The Examen is used among not only the laity of the Church, but also authority figures, like the Pope.

After the death of George Floyd, Pope Francis stated, "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Regis Jesuit issued a statement over the summer that said, "As

“To foster an environment of faith and compassion, we need to start with reflecting on our daily experiences and listening to one another.” Father Jim Goeke

Catholics, we believe in the dignity of human life from conception until natural death. We must champion the dignity of life, of every life, for every day and every moment in between. And we must stand up peacefully and with resolve when we recognize systemic injustice. As an Ignatian community, we are called to walk with the poor, the marginalized and those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice. This is what we are doing today.”

Regis Jesuit has a majority white population. Over recent years, admissions have been trying to create a more diverse community. While doing this, Goeke said the Regis Jesuit community asked, “What does it mean to enable our students to feel at home here?”

Regis Jesuit concluded its statement with, “In order for reconciliation to have a chance, we must acknowledge the lethal impact of hate, racism and bias in our communities; we must not allow police brutality to claim another life; we must commit to change.”



We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form. At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us pray for reconciliation and peace.

3:00 AM · Jun 3, 2020

by Grant Barnes '23

A CALL FOR UNITY & ACTION

Reigs Jesuit Community's Prayer service in response to the racism, police brutality, and recent killings in America

“WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, COMMITTED TO PROMOTING JUSTICE AND MERCY.”
-DAVID CARD, PRESIDENT RJHS

In response to racism and the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Arbery, and the many others brought to the same heartbreaking fate, the Regis Jesuit community held a virtual prayer service on Tuesday, June 9 to gather, amid the pandemic, to hear the diverse voices from of the Regis community. For over forty minutes, staff, faculty, students, and Regis graduates reflected on how our faith intersects with this difficult issue.

Earl Stephens '20, a recent graduate of Regis Jesuit High School, gave his passionate reflection on race and how the national reckoning in the wake of George Floyd's death was not a new reality to him. Earl was an RJ poster boy: a Varsity Lacrosse player involved in the Diversity Action Group, Presidential Ambassadors, and Arrupe Service Club. Yet, as he explained, he could not escape the fear of being black in America.

“It doesn't matter what school I attended, the things I do, and the way I act,” he said, “I am nothing more but black to anyone who doesn't talk to me personally,” Stephens, said.

Earl continued his reflection with a personal story of him being pulled over by law enforcement on his way to school as he was running late.

“I didn't stop at the stop sign, rolled it, and turned right into the BD (Boys Division). Within seconds I saw red and blue flashing lights behind me. My heart began racing, I internally went into panic mode...The words of my father instantly struck my brain. I heard him telling me the steps of how to survive an encounter with the police. I rolled down all the windows letting the cold morning air hit the nervous sweat that had pulled on my brow.”

He continued saying, he kept both hands

on the steering wheel, his registration on the dashboard in plain sight. But he had forgotten about his wallet in his back pocket containing his license.

“I internally begin to panic. When the officer approached my car, he asked me ‘Do you know why I pulled you over?’ Shaking I forced out the words ‘No Sir’. The words that could have sealed my fate that day left my mouth”.

Earl made sure that the cop knew he was reaching in his back pocket to get his wallet. After waiting for the cop to return with his license Earl only received a warning and let Earl get into school because he was late.

“I was and still am grateful I wasn't another headline on the news,” he said.

Earl also shared the message that everyone needs to be motivated to make a change. Using the platforms that we have to have an important conversation, to try to understand each other, and to speak out on any injustices.

Near the end of the prayer service, students and staff read 36 names of people taken from us, and invoking “all others we do not know”.

“We hold names to be sacred,” they said, for “evoking a name makes that person present to us again.”

After the remembering of the names, the prayer service held a moment of silence remembering the eight minutes and 46 seconds George Floyd suffered until he died under the knees of law enforcement.

This emotional and crucially important prayer service concluded with words from Assistant Principal of Mission, Ministry, and Diversity Dr. Kabadi, Ms. Quintanilla, and Principal Tricco. The final blessing from Father Eric Ramirez was followed by Naimah Simonson's meaningful rendition of “Lift Every Voice,” the Black National Anthem.

“Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun, let us march on til' victory is won.”

DAWIT GEBREMARIAM



Growing up as a young black man in today's society comes with a lot of obstacles to navigate. In the midst of the all the events that have happened in the past year, I felt moved to give insight of where my mind is at as a young black man.

In the past few months we have seen major protests for equality and social justice stretching from Los Angeles to New York and

even around the world. Even with these protests against racial inequality and police brutality, yet another black man by the name of Jacob Blake was brutally shot seven times in the back by members of the Wisconsin Police.

After hearing about this I was enraged to see that there has been no change in the mentality of some people in this country. Yet an incident that happened a few days later is what really compelled me to write this commentary piece. On August 25, Kyle Rittenhouse was spotted in Kenosha, Wisconsin during protests carrying a military style semi-automatic rifle. That night he took the lives of two

protesters. You might ask, "How did the police respond to this incident?"

Well the answer is they didn't. The police decided to remain stationary, instead of listening to pleas from protesters to get involved and arrest Kyle. There is video proof showing the police driving straight past Kyle as he walks towards them with his gun strapped around his chest and his hands up.

Now, I am not writing this to attack all police because I know that there are many good police

officers out there who genuinely strive to make a difference in communities. But their clearly needs to be change in the system. Reform is needed in training and accountability.

To me as a young black male these two incidents show that there is a lack of equality in America. A white man literally walked straight past the police with a military grade weapon and wasn't even approached by them. Yet a black man was shot seven times in the back for just walking away from the police. Twelve-year-old Tamir Rice was

shot by police in Cleveland for being spotted with a toy gun at the park. 23-year-old Elijah McClain was killed by Aurora, Colorado police while walking home after someone called the police reporting a "suspicious person." It's hard for me to

"MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY COULD ATTEND MY FUNERAL... I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEAR FOR MY LIFE DURING A TRAFFIC STOP OR WALKING HOME BY MYSELF. YET THAT IS THE REALITY I HAVE TO GROW UP WITH AS A YOUNG BLACK MAN."

understand how my black skin can be more threatening than a seventeen-year old carrying a gun. It is clear as day to see that in one way or another the system shows a prejudice towards people of color.

Whether we like it or not, prejudice still exists today. It's frustrating and frightening to see that these racial incidents are reoccurring theme in our society. It's happening so often now that some people are becoming used to these incidents happening.

It's scary to think that I could be the next Trayvon Martin or the next Elijah McClain or the next Tamir Rice. Yet in today's world being a victim of racial and social injustice is a serious reality for me. I could be

injured or killed just because of how I look or the color of my skin.

My family and friends could attend my funeral due to an incident similar to those who have suffered from racial inequality. I

should not have to fear for my life during things like a traffic stop or walking home by myself. Yet that's the reality that I have to grow up and live with as a young black man.

So for those who are fortunate enough to not have to worry about these kinds of scenarios, I challenge you to educate yourselves and learn

how you can help create change. Talk to those who have different perspectives of life then you. Listen to them. Truly try to learn and understand what its like to be a person of color in America. Have those tough conversations that challenge your beliefs and broaden your perspective. If you are old enough, educate yourself and vote to make legit change. If we are all able to do our research and have these conversations, we can make progress towards fixing things.

It may not come in a day or a month, but we have to fight for change. We have to try to fix the problems in society or else there will be no change. Together we are more powerful than we could ever be if we are divided.



Jesuit my sophomore year. I thought that I would fit right in. I “knew the culture” and I understood what it meant to assimilate into a white school. I encountered racism right away on our sophomore retreat last fall. I remember feeling uneasy as I saw white students wearing black hairstyles and throwing up gang signs. I felt like I should say something, but I had no idea what to say. So I just let it go.

When I got home, I did some reflecting, and I realized that my culture had just been appropriated, or adopted without permission or understanding. I brought it up at my next Diversity Action Group meeting, and myself and a group of other students talked

“I WILL NEVER FORGET THE ANGER I FELT WHEN I SAW THE VIDEO OF GEORGE FLOYD BEING PINNED UNDER DEREK CHAUVIN’S KNEE. I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW FRUSTRATED I WAS.”

VICTORIA TUFFOUR

growing up, I always attended schools with a great

deal of people of color. I had always lived in diverse neighborhoods and because of this, I always went to diverse schools. I was taught to love and respect everyone, to truly acknowledge and try to understand everyone’s background. So you can imagine my surprise when I attended my first ever predominately white institution (PWI).

My mom raised me to be what she considered “proper,” avoiding rap music, “blaccents” and hairstyles. Because of this, I was forced to assimilate

into a culture that wasn’t mine. I would normally be in white friend groups, and I would only listen to rock and pop music. These were well-meaning attempts by mom to help me avoid prejudice, but the fact that they might be necessary is a result of racism. It wasn’t until recently that I unlearned these assimilations.

Despite having many good friends whom I still talk to this day, and a wonderful best friend, I felt like I needed a change. So I decided to transfer to Regis

to the administration about what our response should be. We brainstormed ways to educate rather than punish the students. Even though I hadn’t spoken out in the moment, I felt like I was making a change after. So you can imagine my surprise when I realized nothing educationally or regarding discipline happened, allowing acts of ignorance to continue. I heard this was to be expected, and saw that mirrored in our justice system. I started to understand what it meant to

be black in America. But wait, you say, “Haven’t you always been black? Haven’t you always faced this sort of ignorance?” Well, yes, but I never realized it. Even in diverse schools, there were still students of color that weren’t black, who would say the n-word or change a letter in the word so that they could say it. I never thought that this was wrong, but as the events of the past two years have shown me, this was just plain racism. And I was finally able to understand this willful, blatant ignorance.

This past summer only further opened my eyes to what I’d seen laid bare at Regis. We are all aware of the events of 2020, but for people of color, these events were especially draining. I will never forget the anger I felt when I saw the video of George Floyd being pinned under Derek Chauvin’s knee. I will never forget how frustrated I was. I will never forget saying “another one?” once hearing about Floyd’s case.

On top of all of this, I had to deal with seeing some people who I thought were my friends post things such as “All Lives Matter” or “5 Reasons Why You Shouldn’t Support BLM” on top of many posts from kids at school, people online, and even the president. It was infuriating. I had to lose some of my friends over the basic idea that my life should matter. Not only that, I had to deal with the emotional trauma of realizing that this is something that keeps happening and something I may face someday because of the color of my skin. The trauma of watching as people who don’t understand refuse to even try to learn and empathize. I remember sitting alone in my room on Sunday doing absolutely nothing because of how sad I felt about everything that was going on. I couldn’t bring myself to get

out of bed. And I stayed in my room all day. The one thing that has helped is realizing that there are more activists out there than I thought. I saw so many of my peers post things on social media in support of Black Lives Matter. One of the things that had the biggest impact on me was when some of my white friends reached out to me to check on my mental health. They had conversations with me, listened to what I said, and proved what it meant to be an ally.

Being a black woman is extremely difficult. I find myself constantly working harder than my white classmates just to have half of what they have. I have to push myself to get good grades, in order to get scholarships to attend my dream schools. Regis is a very competitive school.

Especially if you are a person of color. When it comes to college, studies show that only 37% of black 18-24 year olds were enrolled in college. In comparison to 42% of white students, it is obvious that there is a clear disparity. It is very hard to thrive in an environment in which the people that you are competing with are already miles ahead of you. On top of this, I also have to deal with societal beauty standards and the emotional trauma that society continues to inflict on me. But one thing is for certain. No matter how hard the system tries to terrorize me, I will always know who I am and what I stand for. Being black doesn’t mean accepting ignorance and assimilating into white stereotypes. Being black means being strong, intelligent, and never letting the system get to you. Although it is hard, being black is the strongest thing a person could be. And I would never want to trade it for the world.

ON JUNE 3RD, 2020, I did something I had never done before. I gathered all of my photography equipment and made my way to downtown Denver in order to capture images after weeks of unrest in the wake of the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. However, I do not understand what it is to be Black in America, with centuries of oppression weighing on my existence and I did not know how best to help when I didn't have the

personal experience so I immediately thought of taking photos.

To me, taking these photos were a way to capture the raw emotions of the protests, as well as help to spread the message of Black Lives Matter. This collection of photos remains the most important set I have taken to this day, marking not only my development as a photographer, but as a nation as we work towards ending police brutality. Photo by Reilly Wible '22





A GROUP OF REGIS JESUIT students attended a peaceful protest and march on June 4, 2020 in Denver, CO. "Being a part of one of the many Black Lives Matter marches downtown, was something incredible to behold. The action that stood out to me the most that day, which truly pained me to see, was that the news chose to talk about the rioting rather than displaying the beautiful protest that occurred early that afternoon. Nevertheless, marching through those streets I felt as if I was directly fighting for a change, which I had never felt before then, but now is something I strive to do on the daily," Bryson Harris '20 said. Photos by Bryson Harris '20



By Grant Barnes '23 & Maddie Proctor '21

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

Social Justice Interview with Dr. Saj Kabadi

Dr. Saj Kabadi (Theology Teacher & Assistant Principal for Mission, Ministry, and Diversity) speaks on behalf of the institution that, “Any movement of justice that is central to our mission is important to stand by.” Following the death of George Floyd, Dr. Kabadi and the administration of Regis Jesuit released a statement. It read:

We want to acknowledge and join the voices of our Regis Jesuit student community who are expressing their outrage over the horrendous death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer last week. One of the pillars of a Jesuit education is being Committed to Doing Justice. We are proud of our students who are using their voices to speak out against the murder of George Floyd and against violence inflicted upon members of the Black community across our nation. We are with you.

Regis Jesuit students and faculty necessarily have a calling to combat systems of oppression and injustice, as intentionally stated in our mission. While the actions taken in pursuit of social justice may vary from person to person, one goal of education at Regis Jesuit is to promote courage in standing up for ethical, religious, and moral beliefs.

Dr. Kabadi relies on a prayer by Pedro Arrupe SJ

when thinking about current issues of social and racial justice.

The prayer reads:

Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe
Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes, to discern and test the spirits that help me read the signs of the times, to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.
—Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Kabadi calls the BLM movement “our sign of the times.”

He says, “Racial injustice is a real problem in our society and country, and the current signs of the times indicate that.”

One skill that Regis Jesuit hopes to instill in its students is the value of discernment. The RJ community, rooted in the Catholic Jesuit mission, must open their eyes to the signs of the times and discern the best way to further social justice and human dignity in our broken world.

Of course, seeking racial justice starts in our own school. When examining the barriers to racial justice faced by our own community, we have to acknowledge that Regis Jesuit is a predominantly white institution, or PWI.

Kabadi says, “Naming who we are is important because



Dr. Saj Kabadi, Theology Teacher & Assistant Principal for Mission, Ministry, and Diversity

that gives it some power.”

It is important to acknowledge the own reality and brokenness of our community. Until we can confront how far we have strayed from right relationship in our own interactions and perpetuations of unjust systems, we cannot combat those in the world beyond.

Accordingly, the second challenge Kabadi names is our history.

He says, “Our history isn’t too different from other institutions in our country—soaked with systemic racism, systemic sexism, so on and so forth. Acknowledging that is important.”

It is equally important to acknowledge the progress we have made toward racial justice.

Regis Jesuit has worked extensively, from diversifying curriculum to efforts in increasing diversity in the student body, to create a

community that stands for the dignity of every human person. However, this inclination toward racial justice is not just limited to our institutional policies and administration.

Countless students and staff have taken part in activism and protests on a local and national scale. Moving forward, it is important for the right voices to take the lead and for our community to amplify the voices of those from underrepresented communities. These perspectives often do not get a voice in our community.

It is important that the conversation starts in our community. We must have it at the dinner table, in our classes, with our friends. We must pay attention to the “signs of our times” and respond in a manner that is consistent with our community’s values of human dignity and equality. When asked if he could give one piece of advice to students, Dr. Kabadi called for students to “reach out to your teachers and be involved in the things you care about. Talk it through and take action to promote a positive change.”



“AUDITING A CURRICULUM AND MAKING THOUGHTFUL CHANGES TAKES TIME AND INVESTMENT, AND IT INCLUDES NOT ONLY CHANGING BOOKS TO BE MORE REFLECTIVE OF OUR DIVERSE WORLD AND INCLUDE AUTHORS OF COLOR, BUT ALSO EVALUATING OUR OWN BIASES, VALUES, AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES.” JAMIE DAWKINS ENGLISH DEPT CHAIR

by Rhiann Johnson '24

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Regis Jesuit adopts curriculum that reflects justice, diversity and equality

When segregation ended and ‘colored’ and white schools merged, the school curriculum did not adapt to fit all races. School systems today have tried to change their environment in order to bring justice, diversity and equality.

In recent years, and especially this year, Regis Jesuit is committed to becoming a new anti-racist community. Because of the recent murders of African Americans, the momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement, especially in a school that strives to be more diverse, a change was needed.

Regis Jesuit’s Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan states, “‘Diversity’ is used in general context to refer to the many ways our communities reflect varied life experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds, including (but not limited to) gender, ethnic, socio-economic, religious, sexual orientation, and learning styles. We must embrace the dignity of every person in order to find God in all people and experiences.”

Academic departments are striving to embrace this mission.

Over the years faculty and staff have attended

workshops and discussions concerning Culturally Responsive Teaching, and in the past few years have held voluntary book clubs looking at books like “How to Be An Anti-Racist” by Ibram X. Kendi and “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo. In collaboration with the Diversity Directors, a series called “Conversations on Race” was instituted into all academic departments and with all faculty and staff this year.

“I know that equity and diversity in curriculum has been a particular point of focus in the English department the past several years, where teachers recognize a wonderful, natural opportunity to incorporate a greater diversity of voices through literature,” said Theology teacher, Mr. Matthew Klassen ‘98. “We are getting better as a Theology department in this area, but still have a long way to go. It is in the nature of the work that it is never ‘done’ in any definitive way.”

Regis Jesuit’s diversity strategic plan also focuses on key elements that were not previously highlighted as important. Examples such as hiring a more diverse faculty and trying to maintain a more diverse student body while incorporating and expanding on a more diverse curriculum.

According to Mrs. Jamie Dawkins, the chair of the English department, the department has worked towards evaluating their curriculum in order to become stronger in their values of diversity and equity.

“Auditing a curriculum and making thoughtful changes takes time and investment, and it includes not only changing books to be more reflective of our diverse world and include authors of color, but also evaluating our own

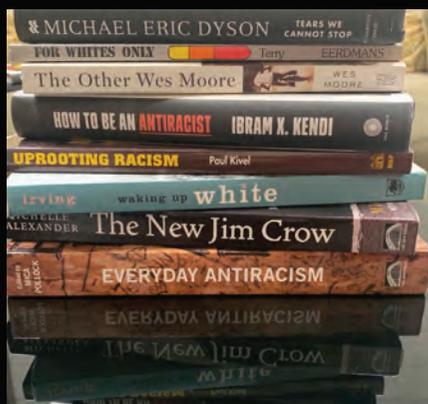
biases, values, and educational experiences,” Dawkins said.

Regarding the future of diversity in the curriculum, Social Studies teacher, Mr. Scott Alcorn ‘99 said, “In addition to the Black History class we’re adding, I would love for us to add an Indigenous history class, a Latin-x history class, an Asian-American history class, etc.”

“My hope is that we keep looking at the books we use in all our courses and keep replacing them with ones that better represent our students and tell a diverse and more complete story. We have to do this kind of work for every single unit and ask ourselves where we can include more BIPOC voices. We’ve really got to be willing to ask that question all the time, and I think we are,” Alcorn added.

Mr. Klassen, Mrs. Dawkins, and Mr. Alcorn all mentioned that the work is continual and must remain at the forefront.

“Changing a book list is one step towards building an equitable classroom but not the end goal. We continue to educate ourselves on how to teach material to lean into themes of oppression, exclusion, systemic racism, sexism, and injustice in all of our material, including the texts that have remained in the curriculum,” Mrs. Dawkins said.



PERSONAL PRAYER OF PEDRO ARRUIPE

GRANT ME, O LORD,
TO SEE EVERYTHING NOW

WITH NEW EYES,
TO DISCERN AND TEST
THE SPIRITS
THAT HELP ME READ THE
SIGNS OF THE TIMES,

TO RELISH THE THINGS THAT ARE
YOURS, AND TO COMMUNICATE
THEM TO OTHERS.

GIVE ME THE CLARITY OF
UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU GAVE
IGNATIUS.

—PEDRO ARRUIPE, SJ

Black Lives Matter.

FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO REGIS JESUIT

by Ruth Woldemedhine '21 and Victoria Tuffour '22

HISTORY

Our country was founded “for the people.” In reality, ever since African Americans were brought to the Americas as slaves, they have been treated unfairly both by individuals and overarching systems. Unfortunately, in many ways, this injustice continues today. For hundreds of years, Black Americans have fought for the same basic rights that White Americans are automatically offered (a.k.a. privilege). This disparity includes job opportunities, quality schools, safe communities, good college opportunities, the ability to trust police, and much more.

One notable movement that fought for the rights of Black Americans was the Civil Rights Movement. Back in the '60s, Black Americans fought to integrate and use the same facilities as White Americans. As most people know, Black Americans were forced to use run down water fountains, sit at the back of the bus, and go to segregated schools. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with other activists, like Malcolm X, tried to change that. They advocated for the rights of Black Americans and fought to get Black people the same facilities that White people were allotted. But that does not mean that it was not met without opposition. There were others who believed that Black people

shouldn't be given the same rights. Their racist views are a clear example of how Black Americans are easily dehumanized by members of the general public.

What does this have to do with Black Lives Matter (BLM)? Black Lives Matter stands for the idea that Black lives should matter just as much as any other life, because, as shown by historical and current discrimination and oppression, society says they don't matter as much as a White person. Since the era of American desegregation, little has changed in terms of Black rights. Black people are still killed disproportionately by the cops, and schools are still segregated. However, BLM seeks to remedy that. Standing on the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Black Lives Matter is focused on affording Black people the same and similar basic rights that its predecessor, the Civil Rights Movement, stood for.

According to their website, their mission is to “eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.” Whether this means standing against the disproportionate rates at which Black people are killed by police or calling for systemic change, BLM never stops moving. Although MLK was met with fierce opposition, he continued fighting.

Just like BLM is met with opposition from All Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter, the movement continues the fight. So far, BLM has managed to get numerous racist statues taken down,

protests (and hopefully justice) for George Floyd, more police reform, including the banning of chokeholds in numerous police districts, Juneteenth recognized as a national holiday, support from athletes, and much more. This is not to say that racism is a thing of the past. Every day, Black people are still suffering from the impacts of slavery and Jim Crow. Whether that's through the effects of redlining, which ensured that Black Americans would be confined to certain neighborhoods that limited their chances or being told that their lives are much less valuable than the lives of White Americans, Black people are always fighting. **FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES. FIGHTING FOR OPPORTUNITIES. FIGHTING AGAINST RACISM. AND FIGHTING FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.** Black Americans still pushing and won't stop until they get there.

GEORGE

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46 year old black man went to Cup Foods in Powderhorn, MN. He entered the Cornerstone to buy cigarettes, where he was accused of paying with a counterfeit \$20 bill, and the police were called. It was later revealed the \$20 dollar bill was real. The police attempted to put Floyd in the squad car, and he fell to the floor, telling the cops he was claustrophobic. The situation escalated further as two more officers arrived at the scene. Derek Chauvin, a white police officer with many complaints to his name, pulls Floyd onto the pavement. Cameras catch Chauvin putting his



Photos taken June 3, 2020 in Downtown Denver by Reilly Wibble '22.

knee onto George Floyd's neck for eight minutes and fifteen seconds. During this time, George is heard repeatedly calling out "I CAN'T BREATHE", a phrase similar to that of Eric Gardner's. Life visibly disappears from his eyes, and he calls out for his deceased mother. The video has since gone viral, catching the attention of people throughout the nation and the world. Chauvin was charged with second degree murder and manslaughter, and the other three officers charged with aiding and abetting murder. The death of George Floyd sparked an uprising demanding justice for black lives.

GEORGE FLOYD. BREONNA TAYLOR. TONY MCCADE. RAYSHARD BROOKS. AHMAUD ARBERY. ELIJAH MCCLAIN. ANTWON ROSE JR. PHILANDO CASTILE. TRAYVON MARTIN. TAMIR RICE. MICHAEL BROWN. ERIC GARNER. NATASHA MCKENNA. STEPHON CLARK.

PROTESTS

Chances are you have heard these names. "SAY THEIR NAMES" became a calling cry for the Black Lives Matter movement. The intent of the protests was to mourn these devastating losses at the hands of law enforcement and call for justice and reform in a broken system. The BLM movement quickly gained large traction and support, with activists protesting around the nation. BLM, as well as many other smaller organizations, set up the framework for many protests and a revolutionary nationwide discussion on racial justice and its intersection with the criminal justice system. These protests called for the arrest of the killer

cops and an overhaul of the policing system, as well as an overhaul of many of the other systems discriminating against BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities. A popular slogan coined in this movement was **DEFUND THE POLICE**, which demands funds put into policing are reallocated into social systems—such as education, foster homes, community leaders, suicide hotlines, crisis centers, and behavioral healthcare. Although viewed as a radical demand, "Defund the Police" is simply a call

to invest in marginalized communities and divest from the criminalization of impoverished and minority communities around the country. According to the New York Times, the Black Lives Matter movement might be the largest our nation has ever seen, with protests spread out in all 50 states. Millions demanded justice in the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. The protests demand justice for the lives lost or harmed by the hands of officers and a new look at fixing the ongoing problem of systematic oppression.

COLORADO

On August 24, 2019, **ELIJAH MCCLAIN**, a 23 year old black man, was walking home from a convenience store in Aurora after purchasing soft drinks. Due to his anemia, Elijah wore a ski mask to keep him warm. On his way to the store, someone called the police on him, suggesting he looked "sketchy" but pointing out they didn't know the type of person he was. Elijah didn't have any weapons on him and didn't appear to pose any actual threat. On his way home, Officers Nathan Woodward, Jason Rosenblatt, and Randy Roedama stopped Elijah. They claimed he looked suspicious, to which Elijah responds that he has "a right to go where [he was] going." The police grab him soon after, where Elijah pleads for the officers to let him go. They then throw him on the ground. His last words are heart-wrenching, as he pleads for his life before he gets sick, vomits, and the sedative ketamine is shot into him. On the ambulance, Elijah suffered a heart attack and was put on life support for three days. The officers walked free, and District Attorney Dave Young claimed his cause of death was "unknown". The McClain family demanded the officers be arrested and charged for the murder of their son, who was killed without cause. His name is now chanted in protests throughout the world. There was a large protest on June 27th in front of the Aurora Police Department catching national headlines. Police fired tear gas at protesters, who were often peaceful. There is one particular, now infamous clip of the police barging into the protest while peaceful protesters sat playing the violin in memory of McClain. This event caused a split in our community. Some saw Elijah McClain as a threat



and sided with the officers, perpetuating the stereotype that young Black men are "dangerous". Others saw the McClain who liked to play the violin for homeless cats.

REGIS JESUIT

Racial justice is an integral aspect of Regis Jesuit's commitment to cura personalis, which is education of the whole person. This education of the whole person necessarily includes issues of social justice and humanitarianism, as our educational goals go beyond the academic. As a school, our mission is to develop each of the five Grad at Grads, one of which is being Committed to Doing Justice. Regis Jesuit, as well as its Jesuit superiors, are supportive of the Black Lives Matter Movement and the call for racial justice in our country.

The following pages include information on our institutional response and how to get involved as an ally to the BLM Movement, as Regis Jesuit is a predominantly white institution. We value the voices and lived experiences of every student, and we are working to create a more equitable and inclusive community.

If you are interested in sharing a perspective on racial justice in this country, or any other issue of social justice, Elevate magazine would love to hear from you. Send us your thoughts and ideas at rjmedia@regisjesuit.com

USING YOUR PRIVILEGE FOR GOOD: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WHITE ALLY

by Maddie Proctor '21

ARE YOU ABLE TO FIND SHAMPOO SUITABLE FOR YOUR HAIR TYPE? OR EVEN "SKIN"-COLORED PRODUCTS SUITABLE FOR SKIN TONE?

Can you flip open a magazine or switch on your TV and see people of your race represented? Have you ever had a teacher who looks like you? Do you feel safe in the presence of police? Congratulations, you have white privilege. Systemic racism runs deep in the United States. People of color continue to be oppressed and discriminated against in our education, healthcare, employment, and criminal justice systems. This systemic racism ranges from microaggressions like dress codes that deem Black hairstyles "unprofessional" to outright physical violence, as we have seen most recently with the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless other victims. The Black Lives Matter Movement has steadily gained momentum in recent years, led mostly by youth activists and people of color. If you are a white person/person of privilege like myself, you may be wondering how you can help. It can seem daunting at first, but we all must actively take a stand against the gross injustice that is racism in our country. Here are some of the lessons I've learned in becoming an ally:

1. NOT BEING RACIST IS NOT ENOUGH.

Being an ally doesn't just mean confronting your own personal biases, judgments, and actions regarding race (although that is a good first step and something we must all continually strive to

do). It is not enough to not say the n-word or to have Black friends. You have to be actively anti-racist. That means confronting racism and using your privilege to help protect people of color (BIPOC), starting with the circles you are currently in. Whether using your privilege means calling out racist comments made by family and friends or standing between POC and law enforcement at protests, being anti-racist is the first step in becoming an ally.

2. BLM IS NOT A SOCIAL MEDIA TREND.

Performative activism is one of the most sickening trends of our time. Protests are not a photo op. Before you post something, reflect on whether your intention is to share meaningful stories, resources, and news about the movement, or if you are just virtue signaling. Social media is a powerful tool. Use your platform to amplify the voices of POC and disseminate important information to educate your peers. We all have unique social circles, as friends, family, and peers. Use your unique position for good, but don't use it to seem "woke".

3. IT IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

It is not the responsibility of BIPOC to educate racist and/or ignorant white people. They are the ones who have to deal with the harsh realities of racism

day in and day out, and we have all played a part in creating the systemic racism that is prevalent in the U.S. today. As such, it is our own responsibility to educate ourselves and share resources with those who may not know the history of the Black experience in America. It is a privilege to opt out or to "get tired" of advocating for racial justice. Non-BIPOC cannot just decide to ignore racist people. That's not enough. We must continue engaging and challenging warped views in order to change them. There are plenty of great resources just a Google search away. I recommend the documentary 13th, the books *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* and *Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD., and the Netflix show *Dear White People* to start. POC are the only ones who have the authority to share their lived experience of racism, and it is our job to learn about the history behind their experiences to help ourselves and other white people get educated.

4. REMEMBER THAT WE ALL HAVE ROOM TO GROW.

It is okay to be wrong. As Ibram X. Kendi said, "To be anti-racist is to admit when we're being racist." It is okay to change your mind about something when presented with new information or perspectives. A lot of white people are too scared to stand with POC

as allies because they are afraid they are doing it the wrong way. It is better to try your best than to stay silent and be complicit in racism. Listen and be receptive to recommendations and criticisms from POC. Their willingness to share with you is a good sign. They are open to the conversation because they think it is productive and worth their time. Speak out against injustices, but know when to listen to the people it directly affects and pass the microphone.

5. DO NOT GIVE IN TO ALLYSHIP FATIGUE.

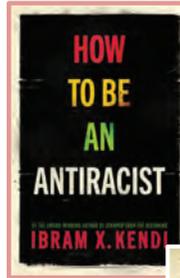
Allyship fatigue is becoming a common term in the BLM ally circle. Some white allies have grown tired of the social media posts and protests. To those allies, I say keep going. We cannot grow tired of demanding social change. We cannot give up on our Black sisters and brothers. Imagine how tired POC are of peacefully protesting and demanding justice, only to be faced with new forms of racism throughout the years. Imagine how tired POC are of being forced to face racism in their own lives—whether that means losing a loved one to police brutality, seeing Black men in their community treated unfairly by the criminal justice system, or facing daily racist comments and microaggressions at school or work. When you get tired of helping to fight this battle, remember that Black men and women have been fighting this war for hundreds of years. Giving up is not an option.

"To foster an environment of faith and compassion, we need to start with reflecting on our daily experiences and listening to one another." Father Jim Goeke

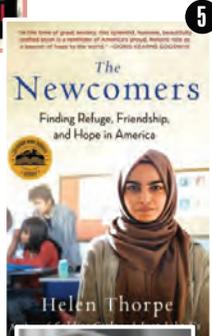
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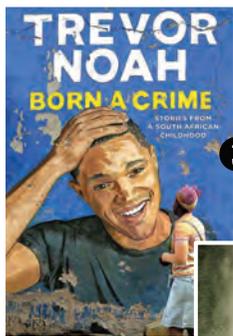
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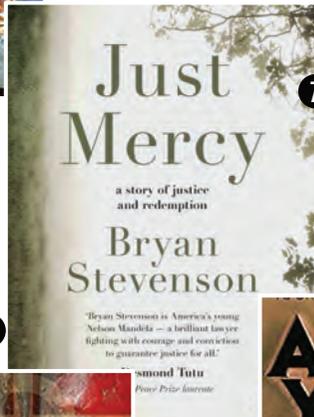
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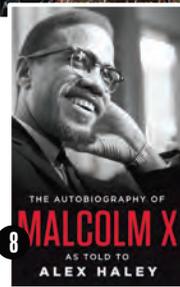
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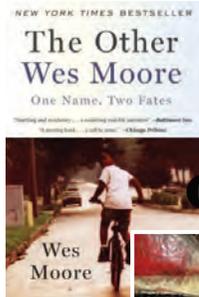
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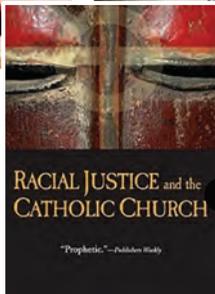
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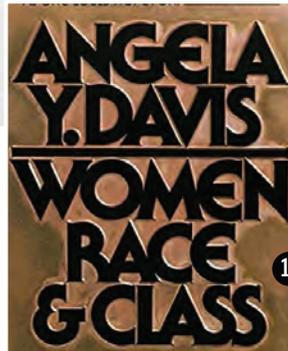
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1. *Waking up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* Debby Irving tells of her “aha!” moment that launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview.

2. *How to Be an Anti-Racist* Ibram X. Kendi discusses concepts of racism and Kendi’s proposals for anti-racist individual actions and

systemic changes. **3. *Born a Crime*** Details the author Trevor Noah’s growing up in his native South Africa during apartheid the mixed-race son of a white father and a black mother. **4. *Between the World and Me*** Ta-Nehisi Coates discusses the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States in a book penned as a letter to

her teenage son. **5. *The NewComers Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in America*** Author Helen Thorpe follows the lives of 22 refugee and immigrant teens throughout the course of one school year as they land at south High School in Denver. **6.**

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates Wes Moore, a Rhodes Scholar, examines the journey of his own life, and of the life of a man with the same name and background who ends up in prison for accessory to murder. **7. *Just Mercy*** exposes the humanity that lies behind bars through Stevenson’s autobiography and the story of Walter McMillian. **8. *The Autobiography of Malcom X*** The famous Malcom X gives his autobiography as told by Alex Haley **9. *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*** Leading black Catholic moral theologian Bryan N. Massingale addresses the thorny issue of racial justice past and present.

10. *Women, Race, and Class* Famous radical Angela Davis studies women’s rights movements in the United States and examines how these intersected with issues of racism and classism in her essential book.



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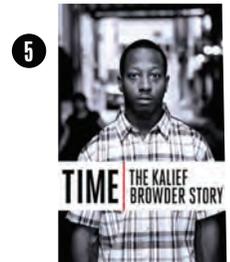


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NETFLIX SHOWS TO WATCH NOW



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