Manifestations of Your Light

Good and gracious God,
Who loves and delights in all people,
we stand in awe before You,
knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your
divine life.

Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your
Light.

May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences
among our sisters and brothers.

We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your
Presence in our Neighbor.

May all peoples live in Peace.

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Agenda

• Prayer/Agenda
• Ron Jackson, Reflection: Importance of Anti-Racism work for the Church and Catholic Charities
• Short Overview of the Paper: Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good
• REDI and Leadership Institute
• Q&A
• Discussion Questions
Ron Jackson’s Reflection

- Life-long Catholic, raised in Mississippi
- Move to DC in 1974
- Worked for Congress 1974-1977
- Moved Back to Mississippi 1977-1983
- Law School
- Starting work for the Catholic Church 1991

rjackson@catholiccharitiesusa.org
According to the September 2019 US poverty statistics released by the US Census Bureau:

• The highest rates of poverty are among children, especially children of color. The poverty rate for white children is 10%, while it is 26% for Latinx children, 32% for Native-American children, and 33% for African-American children.

• Overall 60% of the US population is white, 13% Black, and 18% Latinx/Hispanic.
Equality vs. Equity

Equality

Equity

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CCUSA Initiatives

• REDI: **Racial Equity and Justice, Diversity and Inclusion** section

• Leadership Institute: Held every spring in May in Lutz, Florida. (Virtual this year.)
Work of Social Policy Team

Anthony Granado
Vice President, Government Relations

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Work of Social Policy Team

- Administration
- Congress
COVID-19 Disparities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Deaths Per 100,000 Americans Through Aug 18, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>118.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>111.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>105.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>99.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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COVID-19 Disparities

MORE LIKELY TO:
- Not have access to testing
- Live in high density
- Be exposed to pollution
- Have a pre-existing condition
- Be an essential worker

ON TOP OF A RACIAL BIAS IN HEALTHCARE
Unemployment

Black, Hispanic Unemployment Still High After Small Drops

Unemployment Rate by Race

- White: 6.0% (December 2020), 5.7% (January 2021)
- Black: 9.9% (December 2020), 9.2% (January 2021)
- Asian: 5.9% (December 2020), 6.6% (January 2021)
- Hispanic: 9.3% (December 2020), 8.6% (January 2021)

Note: Data is adjusted for seasonal variations.
FIGURE 1: COVID-19 HOUSING FRAGILITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY
Share of renters with no, slight, moderate, or high confidence they can pay their rent next month

Source: California Housing Partnership analysis of Household Pulse Survey data from July 16-21, U.S. Census Bureau.
Discussion Questions

• How are you using the Poverty and Racism paper?

• What resources are still needed for the network?

• What are agencies doing to address the issue of Poverty and Racism?

• What are you still planning to do?
Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.