

2021 LENTEN REFLECTIONS

*Interracial Healing Task Force
Catholic Diocese of Dallas*

HOW TO USE THESE REFLECTIONS

The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020 seemed to open the eyes of many in the U.S. and the world about how racism manifests. Throughout the Sundays of the Lenten Season, the Interracial Healing Task Force has created reflection questions designed to help each of us look inside ourselves to consider the often-difficult topic of racism and the even more challenging struggle of how to achieve racial healing.

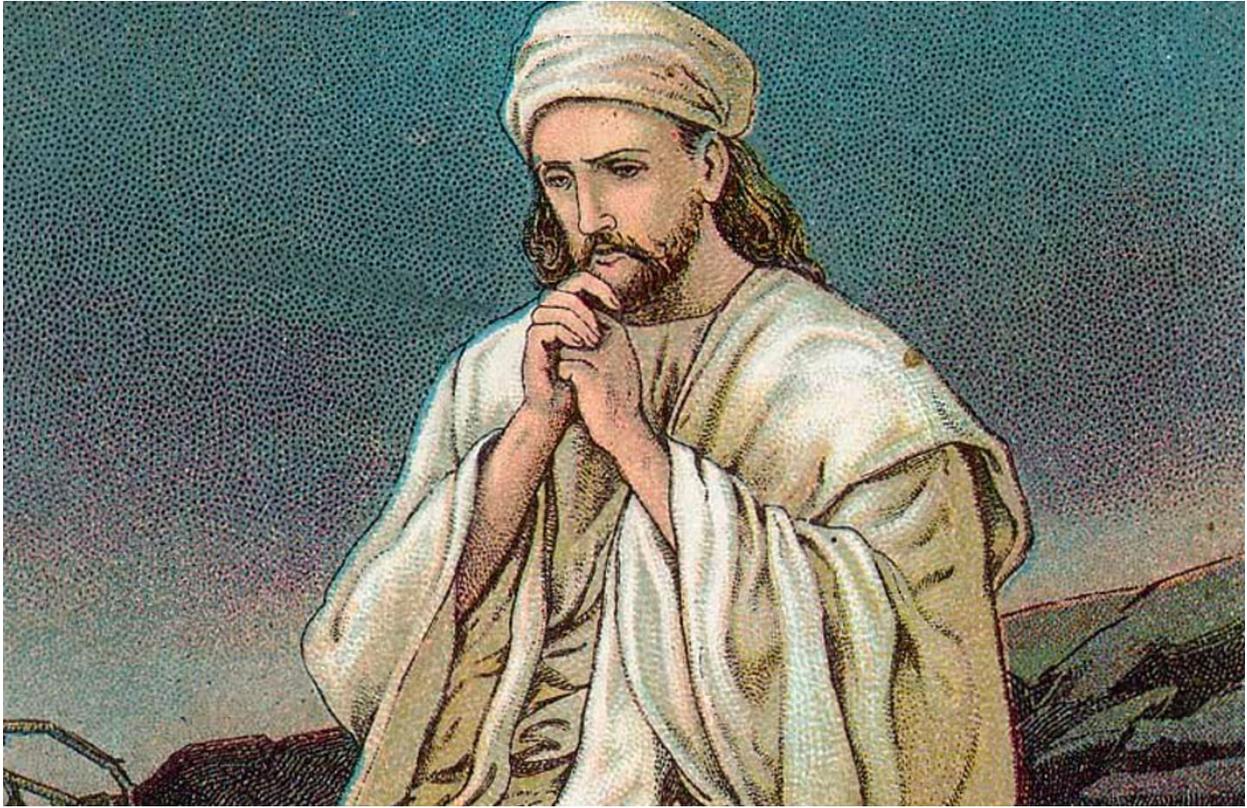
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Diocese of Dallas
Diocesan Interracial Healing Task Force
Lenten Reflections - 2021

Opening Prayer: Lord of all, we pray for healing to address the persistent sin of injustice, which is the rejection of the full humanity of some of your children, and the talents and potential you have given them. We pray for the grace to recognize the systems that do not support the dignity of every person, that do not promote respect for those who are different than ourselves, who bear the legacy of centuries of discrimination, fear, and violence. Give us eyes to see how the past has shaped the complex present.

We pray for social structures in which children of color can grow up without fear, in security and dignity, with access to health care and a quality education that will allow them to develop their gifts.

Empower us to create a new way forward, with a new sense of community that embraces and celebrates the rich diversity of all. Help us to live out your call to combat racism and hatred. Show us how to live in compassionate solidarity, supported by your grace and your love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. *(Condensed from the USCCB Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism)*



February 21, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 12-15 – The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert

Reflection Questions:

Every year, on the First Sunday of Lent, we are offered the story of Satan tempting Jesus in the desert. In the Gospel of Mark, we learn that Jesus was driven to the desert for forty days. While there, Jesus lived among the beasts. He was also ministered to by the angels. We all experience time in the desert, especially those who are confronted with racism and prejudice.

1. During the 40 days of Lent, how can we, like the angels, minister to those who suffer from racial and ethnic injustice?
2. This Sunday's gospel reading ends by enjoining us to, "Repent and believe in the gospel". In what ways are you called to repent for your actions or inactions regarding how you treat people that you consider different from you?