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Seeing With the Eyes of Christ: Confronting the Sin of Racism

Cardinal Gregory

"We are still becoming a nation that actually lives what it preaches" on race relations, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington said March 20 at a conference on confronting the sin of racism sponsored by the Peace and Justice Commission of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. "We need a national reconciliation — a healing of America's soul from the torment of oppression and hatred," he said. "We need to forgive one another for all of those things that belong to the past so that we can move into a better, more hopeful tomorrow." Cardinal Gregory, the first African

"Living together as brothers and sisters is the only sensible condition for this nation of ours."

American cardinal, was keynote speaker at the conference titled "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," held at Nativity Parish in Burke, Virginia. The theme was taken from the title of the U.S. bishops' 2018 pastoral against racism. Cardinal Gregory said Americans "have not yet found a way to translate the nobility of our principles into the practical everyday living patterns of a people." As first steps he suggested cross-cultural educational opportunities and asked those at the conference to vow to only use "proper titles when referring to people — titles that are determined as appropriate by the people themselves." He added: "Racism is only able to survive as long as there is ignorance. That is why cross-cultural opportunities for all people are an herbicide for the unchecked growth of racism." Cardinal Gregory's address follows.

■ must admit that I feel like I'm preaching to the choir on occasions such as this. I realize that the audience gathered before me this evening in person or virtually is populated with quite like-minded people most of whom are scandalized and offended by expressions of racial bigotry and violence the likes of which have recently become too much a part of our world. You are also particularly embarrassed that some of those events may have happened within the confines of our own region.

Many of you may already have a personal history of working for, praying for and supporting racial harmony and justice. I

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