



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH **All of God's Creation**

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, July 31, 2022

### **We Must Play a Larger Role in the Struggle Against Racism**

“Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.” Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 20

Along with the personal and social costs, “... there are economic costs to racism for all of us.... A February 2021 report from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco says the cost of racial and gender inequity on the gross domestic product (GDP, a measure of the economy) is \$2.6 trillion, and that’s just for 2019. **Over the last 30 years, gender and racial gaps have created greater and greater losses in the US GDP that add up to approximately \$71 trillion....**

The gaps in pay and wealth stay open because racist, capitalist culture has Americans bathing in the lie that the economy is a zero-sum game—if people who are different from ‘us’ are gaining, ‘our people’ must be losing. White people are fed this idea by ‘divide-and-conquer’ politicians and companies who benefit from upholding the belief, which can come from either side of the aisle, according to a 2019 social psychology study in *Science Advances*.

We need to change the system. **We need to invest in people. People are the economy.** For example, ‘Let’s say you invest in the child tax credit [from the Build Back Better bill]. What does that do? It gives people money. That’s money going out the door, but it’s also money that people can spend in the economy. It allows people to live healthy lives. That’s the way we should be thinking about revenue and the economy.’ (Jhumpa Bhattacharya, vice president for programs and strategy at the Insight Center)

.... Fighting for justice for all communities in policies and opening our minds to unlearning beliefs can propel us forward to a world built on thriving communities and care. **Our country is held back by racism in countless systems—there is no wrong place to start dismantling it.** (Eleanor Greene, From Green American Magazine Issue *Divided, We Fall*)

“... A reinvigorated vision of a more inclusive democracy is necessary.... That means expanding and protecting access to voting, creating legislation to protect people who face discrimination, promoting civics education and teaching students an anti-racist curriculum, and ensuring all Americans have healthcare, housing, and other vital services so they can lead safe and dignified lives.” (Cassie Miller and Rachel Carroll Rivas, *The Year in Hate & Extremism 2021*, Southern Poverty Law Center)

“... Catholic Social Teaching is specifically related to how we, as a society, engage in the work of caring for one another and our world. This work includes naming the realities at a given point in time, highlighting the dangers to full human flourishing, and critiquing these dangers from the point of view of the Catholic faith. An integral part of Catholic Social Teaching is the process of **see-judge-act**, inspired by the words of Saint Pope Paul VI.” (*Heart*, A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. – Canada, 2022, 19(1), 17)

“... **Let us then join in the hard work of peacefully rebuilding what hatred and frustration have torn down.** This is the true call of a disciple and the real work of restorative justice....” (Bishop Shelton J. Fabre and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, April 20, 2021).