

Catholic Schools Opposing Racism

TURNING CORNERS:

the Human
SEEING[√] RACE IN A NEW WAY



2002-2003 PROGRAM: *Suppers & Conferences for Students | In-Services for Teachers
Theater Performances | a Concert & a Commitment Day*

The theme for this year is seeing. At each event we will focus on the ways we view others and ourselves through the lens and prism of race. The Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Illinois "*Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to See with the Eyes of Christ*" inspires this year's program.

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

TURNING CORNERS: HOW CAN WE SEE OUR TRUE COLORS?

Event Coverage |

- **Supper for Students**
- **In-Service for Teachers***

Saturday, December 7, 2002

TURNING PAGES: YOUR FAMILY ALBUM—WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Event Coverage |

- **Conference for Students**
- **In-Service for Teachers***

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

VISIONS AND DREAMS

Event Coverage |

- **COR in Concert**
7:00 p.m.

Location: Old St. Patrick's Church, Chicago, IL

Monday, February 10, 2003

LORD, THAT I MAY SEE

COR Commitment Day
Celebrated in all high schools and grade schools

**In-Service provided by Susan O'Halloran. See teacher in-service flier for more information.*

***Outreach version of the COR Theater Production. See play flier for more information.*

Wednesday, February 19, 2003

NEAR-SIGHTED: LOOKING AT YOUR OWN SCHOOL

Event Coverage |

- **Supper for Students**
- **In-Service for Teachers***

4:00-7:30 p.m.

Location: St. Scholastica Academy, 7416 N. Ridge Blvd., Chicago, IL

Saturday, March 22, 2003

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

- **Urban Experience for Students**

- **In-Service for Teachers***

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location: Uptown, Chicago, IL

THEATER PRESENTATION

TURNING CORNERS: *True Stories about Race and Racism***

Wednesday, October 9, 2002 at Queen of Peace H. S.

Monday, October 28, 2002 at Maria H. S.

Thursday, February 6, 2003 at St. Patrick H. S.

Monday, February 24, 2003 at Regina Dominican H. S.

Friday, May 16, 2003

JUSTSTORIES

Storytelling Conference:
Creative Models of Storygathering &
Storytelling for Teachers

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Divine Word International Conference Center, Techy, IL



COR Supper for Students and Faculty

Turning CORners

How Can We See Our True Colors?

October 9th, 2002

Burbank, IL

Hosted by Queen of Peace High School

The first COR event of the year began with an ice breaker that allowed students to mix with people they didn't know and to discuss both their own stereotypes about others and times when they have been misjudged. After the initial mixing, students watched Turning CORners, the play created by Megan Carney from the true stories about race and racism that COR collected from over 1000 Catholic high school students during the 2001-2002 school year. This play shows students trying to make sense of race today: an African-American athlete is shocked and hurt when he finds his white teammates telling racist jokes; a white boy tries to figure out what happened to his "lost" ethnicity; a Latina student wonders how to integrate her family's culture with her new school; an Arab-American student worries that he's seen as a terrorist after 9/11. While these stories show students asking serious questions, they also show the characters growing, changing, turning corners and seeing in new ways when it comes to others' and their own races and ethnicities.



After the play, students took some time to think individually about what corner they need to turn and how they need to see differently. Then students went to dinner where they were led by student facilitators in conversation about the play and how it relates to their own lives.



Students returned to the chapel after dinner to participate in a closing prayer service, during which each group shared how they are going to try to see differently and representatives from each group received a blessing to see “with the eyes of Christ.”





Teacher In-Service

Making The Visible Invisible

How Do I Teach the History of Race and the Shifting Face of Racism Today?

Teachers met with Susan O'Halloran, diversity educator, writer and storyteller, to struggle with some elementary ideas about race and racism. They looked at such questions as, "What is race?" "What's the difference between racism and prejudice?" and "How have different groups moved from outsider to insider status in the history of the United States?" This grappling with race and with how racism has developed in the U. S. provided participants with a solid historical background from which to become actively anti-racist teachers.

After the in-service, teachers discussed the concepts they covered in class over dinner.

The student component of the evening included students and faculty from 18 schools in the Archdiocese; there were over 200 participants.

Nearly 60 junior high teachers, high school teachers and catechetical leaders from 25 different schools and parishes attended the teacher in-service.



COR Conference

Turning Pages

Your Family Album-What Do You See?

Saturday, December 7, 2002
Hosted by Loyola Academy

During the conference on Saturday, students continued to explore the theme of COR this year: how race affects the way people see themselves and others and how we can begin to see one another in a new way. Students listened to a presentation by Andrew Lyke from the Office of Family Ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the local Coordinator for the Institute for the Recovery from Racism, shared their experiences with race and learned about resources that will help them have difficult conversations with friends and family about race.

Andrew Lyke walked students through an overview of the Recovery from Racism process, which employs the addictions and recovery model to address racism. This method makes clear that racism “makes sense” and serves a purpose in society, which is one of the reasons it persists, and that adhering to racist beliefs is like having an addiction from which all people—white people and people of color—need to recover. The way to recovery from racism, understanding that no one is fully “cured” and that individuals have to continually manage the racism “addiction,” is to undergo a series of stages outlined in the program. Beginning with the stage of denial, people must work through all eight stages until they reach acceptance and witnessing to others about the reality of racism and the need to confront it. Lyke ended with the optimistic message that everyone can recover from racism and help society at large recover if people undergo the stages, take action and live the radical Gospel message that all are equal.

After listening to Andrew Lyke, students reflected on the presentation and their own experiences with race by discussing at what age they were first aware of race, how they discovered what race they were, how their families and communities affected the way they see differences in others and how to be a change agent in society. Small groups shared their responses to these questions and then representatives from each school shared how their community works against racism and for inclusion and diversity.



Students then went to lunch where they enjoyed Asian fare while talking to their small-group members. After lunch, students were mixed into another group and went to a classroom where students from Loyola Academy facilitated some ice breakers and team building activities as well as presented resources that students and their families and friends can use to help them talk about race and racism and to take a stand against discrimination and bullying. After the small-group presentations, students met with their own school group to discuss ways to take the learnings from the day back to their own school communities and families.

The entire group ended the day in the chapel with mass, enjoying a student choir, student lectors and the celebration by Rev. Terry Baum, S.J.



This conference included students and faculty from 14 schools in the Archdiocese. There were over 100 participants.

Student Comments from the COR Conference

I realized how racism affects us and that we must not turn away from one another just because we disagree.

I learned that racism is still in the world and that it is a sin to be racist.

It's important to share the COR experience with others!

Forgiveness is the key to tolerance.

I just want to say I enjoyed myself and thank you for letting me come and share my thoughts and feelings. I hope to join another COR meeting!



I learned that racism is not crazy; it makes sense, that's why it's still around. I also learned that racism is still a big problem in the U.S.

The whole experience was amazing. I loved it.

We are the generation who can make a difference.

It was really great; I'm looking forward to coming back.

Teacher In-Service

Difficult Classroom Discussions

How Do I Bring Up the
Subject of Race Without
Making Things Worse?

Saturday, December 7th, 2002
Loyola Academy

Teachers and catechetical educators met with Susan O'Halloran, diversity educator, writer and storyteller, to talk about how to address race and racism with students without being swamped in ugly conversations and hurt feelings.

O'Halloran began by facilitating community building activities and the development of communication guidelines that teachers can use in their own classrooms. Participants shared their success stories and their failed attempts of moderating difficult conversations in the classroom; participants worked together in small groups to create possible solutions for the problem situations that had been identified.

O'Halloran shared strategies for how to analyze students' resistance to having a conversation about race and racism and for opening up a conversation so that students can safely share their opinions while also being challenged to reconsider those opinions.

Teachers shared lunch together where they continued their conversation and left the day with the mindset to address hard topics in the classroom and a list of resources to help them further their learning.

11 grade school teachers, high school teachers and catechetical leaders from 10 different schools and parishes attended the teacher in-service.



Dancers from Loyola Academy open the concert

COR in Concert

Visions and Dreams

Old St. Patrick's
700 W. Adams
January 29, 2003
7:00 p.m.



Patty Nolan Fitzgerald and Suzanne Wille welcome schools and audience members to the concert.

Catholic Schools Opposing Racism hosted the third annual COR in Concert at Old St. Patrick's Church downtown on Wednesday, January 29, 2003.

Over 350 students from 14 high schools in the Archdiocese celebrated by singing out against racism and for harmony at COR in Concert. The concert began with dancers from Loyola Academy dancing to "Dona Nobis Pacem" and then all 350 students joining together to sing "New Heaven, New Earth" by Donna Peña; the concert ended with all students singing "Go Make a Difference" by Steven Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek.



All schools join in the first song of the concert: "New Heaven, New Earth" by Donna Peña.

In between, schools sang everything from contemporary liturgical music by composers such as David Haas, to an a capella arrangement of "Wanting Memories" to the gospel sounds of "Shout to the Lord" and "Testify to Love." Each school introduced its song by reading a relevant passage from scripture and by having a Catholic grade school student read the prayer he or she wrote for COR Commitment Day (see www.racebridges.net/cor).

The evening began with a welcome by Patricia Nolan-Fitzgerald, principal of Queen of Peace



Student from Mt. Assisi Academy helps Jessica from St. Mary Star of the Sea read her prayer.



Mt. Assisi students sing "We Are One Body."

High School and director of COR, and Suzanne Wille, COR Coordinator.

High schools that performed in the concert:
Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary,
Good Counsel High School, Loyola Academy,
Maria High School, McAuley High School,
Mother Guerin High School, Mt. Assisi
Academy, Nazareth Academy, Notre Dame
High School for Girls, Queen of Peace High
School, Regina Dominican High School,
Resurrection High School, St. Scholastica
Academy and Trinity High School.

Students who prayed before the songs came
from the following grade schools: St.
Athanasius, St. Cyprian, St. John De La Salle
Academy of Fine Arts, St. John of the Cross,
St. Joseph (Homewood) and St. Mary Star of
the Sea.

COR Supper for Students and Faculty

Near Sighted

Looking at Your Own School

The second COR Supper of the year was held at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago on Wednesday, February 19, 2003. The evening began with an ice breaker that allowed students to mix with people they didn't know. After the initial mixing, students listened to a brief presentation by Mary Anne O'Ryan, O.S.B., who explained the development of racial identity in dominant (white) and non-dominant (African American, Latino/a, Asian, American Indian, etc.) groups in the United States. This theory of racial development is fully explained by Beverly Daniel Tatum in her book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*.

After learning about the stages of racial development, students met in heterogeneous groups to discuss their personal experiences with racial development. Students from St. Scholastica facilitated the discussion.

Students then met with their own school groups to look at the recommendations that the Illinois Bishops make in their pastoral letter, *Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to see with the Eyes of Christ*, for creating a racially just society. Using their suggestions as a jumping off point, students wrote action statements about what they would like to do at their own schools to combat racism.

Students then joined for a dinner prepared by the faculty and staff at St. Scholastica.

Following dinner, students gathered in the chapel to participate in a closing prayer service, during which a representative from each school shared how his or her school group planned to affect their own communities.

This conference included students and faculty from 12 schools in the Archdiocese. There were nearly 100 participants.

Students from each school answered the following prompt before dinner and then read their commitment statements at the closing prayer service.

We commit ourselves to dismantling racism in our school by taking the following action . . .

De La Salle Institute

Teach people to move beyond mere toleration and to accept openheartedly people of all races.

Josephinum High School

Join community groups which nurture trusting relationships among people of different races and ethnic groups. Seek opportunities to know and learn from a person of a different race (mix-it-up at lunch, once a week). Refuse to use biased language and to tell jokes tinged with racist attitudes.

St. Laurence High School

Seek opportunities to know and learn from a person of a different race. Hold meetings for students of different races to learn about one another. Have cultural diversity days.

Notre Dame High School (Boys)

Pray for an end to racism (prayer during advisory or during announcements). Speak and live the truth that you acquire by seeing with the eyes of Christ. Send COR reps to advisory and religion classes to share issues on racism.

Notre Dame High School for Girls

Speak and live the truth by seeing with the eyes of an open heart. Create groups and organizations that will nurture relationships of trust among people of different races and ethnicities. Educate ourselves, confront ignorance, oppose racism and build a more unified community.

Our Lady of Tepeyac High School

We will present what we've learned to other classes in our school. We will organize a prayer service dedicated to educating others about racism and praying for its end.

Queen of Peace High School

Extend mentoring and diversity training to students at local grade schools. Create an ecumenical prayer service by incorporating

different religious and cultural aspects into an all-school liturgy. Be critical of biased media and provide to students a “fill-in-the-blank” letter to mail to companies in which we have observed prejudice or racism in their product, advertising or services.

St. Rita of Cascia High School

Pray two school morning prayers a month that are devoted to the topic of racism. Create a workshop that deals with the topic of racism. Make a commitment to bring at least one new person to COR.

St. Scholastica Academy

Create a diversity week in which we educate others and celebrate the different cultures of the world represented at SSA.

Teacher In-Service

Rituals that Include or Exclude

Do Our Assemblies, Prayer Services and School Events Include Everyone?

Teachers met with Susan O'Halloran, diversity educator, writer and storyteller, to examine how their schools create community rituals and celebrations and to imagine ways to make those community-wide events more inclusive. Teachers began by evaluating the kinds of activities that occur at their own school and then had the chance to learn about how to be make their events truly inclusive, even if they don't know have a lot of knowledge about non-dominant groups or if the school is ethnically homogeneous.

O'Halloran focused on both personal and group communication styles so that teachers could develop comfort communicating with a diverse range of individuals and groups and so that teachers learn how to truly honor the priorities of others.

After the in-service, teachers discussed the concepts they covered in class over dinner.

19 grade school and high school teachers from 15 different schools attended the teacher in-service.



Students explore the Uptown neighborhood



Cynthia Milsap from The Night Ministry talks to students



Megan Carney teaches how to use theater to share experiences

COR Urban Experience

Do You See What I See? Your Family Album- What Do You See?

Uptown Chicago

The final COR event for students this year was held in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago on Saturday, March 22, 2003. Uptown is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country, with over 60 languages spoken in the local high school, no dominant ethnic group, people from all socio-economic strata and a third of the residents born in countries other than the United States. This neighborhood set the stage for exploring how diverse groups of people can live together peacefully and create a thriving community, which Uptown models in its commitment to diversity and to providing the social services and community organizations that its citizens need.

The day began at St. Thomas of Canterbury, which acts as a center of Catholic worship, providing masses in six different languages each week, a soup kitchen and a food and clothing pantry. The day opened with prayer and the chance for students to meet in small groups to share their feelings about their own neighborhoods. Students then heard from Susan Rans, who provided information about the history and current nature of the Uptown community. Fr. Rich Simons, the pastor of St. Thomas of Canterbury, then talked about the challenges of being an urban parish and gave students a tour of the church, which is modeled after the architecture of Quaker meeting houses but now houses the religious artifacts of a number of ethnicities—Our Lady of Fatima in an Asian pagoda, a “black Christ” from Ecuador and a prominently placed painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe being some of the most noticeable examples.

After the introduction to the day, each small group took a walk through the neighborhood, noting the changes brought with encroaching gentrification as well as all of the social services and the variety of stores and restaurants catering to ethnic groups as varied as Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Eritrean and Latino. Each walk took students to a different location, at which they saw a presentation either by Fr. Rich Simons,



pastor of St. Thomas of Canterbury; Cynthia Milsap, former director of The Night Ministry, an organization that caters to the needs of people—many homeless teens—who are on the streets after dark; or Georgina Roy at the Anawim Center, a center for Native American spirituality.

After taking this neighborhood walk and seeing one of the above presentations, participants convened at the International Conference Center (ICC) to eat lunch and socialize with one another. After lunch, Katy Hogan, owner of the Heartland Café and community activist, addressed the need to building communities in an intentional way and the possibility of maintaining a community even in the face of internal disagreements.



Participants put their new theater skills to work!

During the final activity of the day Megan Carney, the Artistic Director of the About Face Youth Theatre and local playwright, talked to students about the way theater can help people express their feelings and communicate with others, emphasizing the use of “physical language” to represent ideas and emotions. Carney had the group practice representing emotions and concepts, such as “happiness,” “confidence,” and “community” in physical form. After that, each small group got together to discuss what they would take away from their day of learning about Uptown and to create a physical representation of those learnings. From there, the creativity really exploded! The groups presented their skits, which clearly shared what participants had learned. The entire group was moved by demonstrations of learning how to turn fences between people into bridges of understanding, of learning how to absorb the experiences of another person, race or culture and of being purified during a Native American smudging ceremony.



Participants put their new theater skills to work!

Over 30 people from 9 different schools in the Archdiocese participated in this Urban Experience.

