

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The Anti-Racism Task Force of the Diocese of Western Missouri was formed in fall 2001, following a mandate by the national church that all clergy and lay leaders attend anti-racism training. The Anti-Racism Task Force's mission is: "To launch thoughtful dialogue on how racism manifests itself among the people of God and to encourage church-led initiatives to recognize and combat racism through heartfelt prayer, earnest study and honest communication."

One of the ways the task force promotes dialogue is by leading one-day anti-racism workshops throughout the diocese as well as upon request in the community. The task force has not conducted any training for the last few years, but would like to do more training in 2010 and welcomes participants from the newly ordained as well as clergy and lay leaders. The task force also has provided seminars at national convention.

For the last seven years, the Anti-Racism Task Force has been actively involved in promoting and organizing the annual service held at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral each February in honor of Absalom Jones, the first African-American to be ordained a priest. The 2009 Absalom Jones celebration featured The Rev. Larry Coleman, a Kansas City attorney and minister of the AME church, as well as clergy and lay leaders from St. Augustine's, St. Andrews and Grace & Holy Trinity. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Howe was the celebrant. Following the service, a reception and black history exhibit was featured in the Founders Hall. The 2010 service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 11 a.m.

The task force has worked with the St. Andrew's/St. Augustine's Racial Reconciliation Group to create a Black History Month Sunday School Curriculum for children and adults for distribution to churches throughout the diocese.

For more information on the anti-racism task force, contact Meg Townsend at mtownsend@kc.rr.com or Drew Brown at drewb@stjoelive.com.

Submitted by

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