

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.

- In **2010**, the task force conducted two training sessions – one for clergy and lay leaders on the bishop search committee and one for clergy who were new to the diocese.

For the last eight 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 **2010** Absalom Jones celebration featured The Rev. Ken Chumbley, rector of Christ Episcopal Church - Springfield and active participant in local racial reconciliation efforts. The service also included 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 2011 service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 11 a.m.

In addition, in past years, 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.

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