Dear Parishioners,

        I'm your pastor, not a political pundit. However, in light of current events I feel pressed to offer a brief reflection on racism—from the Christian perspective. It's not an exhaustive treatment on this vast subject, nor is it a commentary in any way on the specific details of that which occurred prior to, during or after the death of George Floyd (may God rest his soul and give peace to his family). For the sake of Christian charity, I would simply like to make a few points.

        In the first book of the Holy Bible Adam is terribly excited when he gazes upon Eve for the first time and shouts: *This one at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh*! (Genesis 2:23). God could have created Eve from the dust and breathed into her the immortal soul, as He did when creating Adam. Why did the good Lord create the first woman as He did, from the flesh of Adam her husband?

        One reason is because He loves marriage so much. The creation of Eve *out of her man* (Gen. 2:23) emphasizes the oneness God wants for His spouses. By the way, many husbands and wives have grown closer as a result of time spent together during the quarantine. Praise the Lord!

        Another reason Eve was "created out of her man" was that God not only loves marriage so much, He loves the human race so much. Each of us is cherished dearly and tenderly. Each of us has the same two original parents: Adam and Eve. They are one with each other and we are one with them. That makes us all family. That makes racism, properly defined, something that is not of God.

        When I was a teenager I was working in a pizzeria. There was a sign on the front of the store: "Help Wanted". My boss was looking for a kitchen worker. A young African American man came in, he was in his late teens. He was tall and strong. He made a nice appearance. When he politely explained to my boss that he was there to interview for the job my boss told him the job had been filled. But the job was not filled. He just did not want to hire a black person. "Why not?" I asked. He responded, "It wouldn't fly in a white neighborhood like this." I was certain that young black man was a victim of racism—bonafide racism. I found it disgusting.

        Can you be a good Christian and be a racist at the same time? Clearly not. As Christians we celebrate the Creator and we celebrate the creation. We are glad that God made us diverse but of equal dignity, one and all. After all, wouldn't it be boring if we all looked like, like, well….like me??!! To consider that one race is superior to another is absurd. To despise someone, reject that person and wish him or her evil simply because of that person's race is wrong. We would not like it done to us, why would we do it to others? "*Do to others whatever you would have them do to you*," says the Lord. (Matthew 7:12).

        On the other hand, sometimes someone is accused of racism when there is no racism. For instance, if you criticize gangster rap music for good reason some in our society will undoubtedly accuse you of racism. There are people who publicly deplore gangster rap for good reason, namely, because it generally glorifies violence, foul language and a treatment of women as sex toys that have no value except in the pleasure they provide. Therefore, it is diabolical. Are these critics of gangster rap racists just because they oppose music that happens to be dominated by African Americans? Of course not. If you love people you will not want them ingesting this evil, regardless of the color of their skin. Bonafide racism is truly disgusting from the Christian perspective. However, also from the Christian perspective, we must be very careful about making rash judgments and jumping to uncharitable conclusions, which is always hurtful.

        In the creation of Eve God wanted us to see that just as Adam and Eve were one, so too the rest of us are one. There is one human family. We are brothers and sisters. We tend to talk about different races: Caucasian, Negro, Asian, Latino, black, white, yellow, brown et cetera, but it is a very limited way of seeing things. Ultimately, there is only one race: the human race.

God bless you!
I love you!
See you soon!

Father Eric