



# St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

372 S. Prairie Avenue  
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 - 4020  
Ph: 630 279 1383, 630 279 1386 Fax: 630 279 1479  
email: [bishop@syromail.com](mailto:bishop@syromail.com) / [www.stthomasdiocese.org](http://www.stthomasdiocese.org)

Circular 71/2020

June 19, 2020

**Subject: Covid-19 and Racism**

Dear and Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

**Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

As we are aware, we are living in a world of challenges. Two serious challenges we encounter are, Covid-19 and Racism. These are two evils crushing the world at large. Covid-19 is a new pandemic, but Racism has been there among men for centuries.

The loss of human life due to Corona Virus is terrible: more than 450,000 have died; over 8300,000 were treated due to Covid-19. The rest of the world are under fear. Businesses, entertainments, travels, and worship places are severely affected by this pandemic. It seems that there is no easy solution in the near future. So let us put our trust in the Lord and live with all precautions.

Racism is an evil and a sin. God has created all human beings equally. We cannot make segregation among human beings. Each one is unique and different from another. We are bound to accept the differences and appreciate the qualities found in everyone. Black, brown, and white – the color of the skin – should not make anyone inferior to the other. We are born with the particular color which we cannot change in the course of time. Let us accept and respect the differences in skin color and sexual orientations. Since racism is an attitude of the human mind, it must be corrected through our constant effort.

Human life is sacred and should be treated with dignity and respect. The picture of the senseless murder of George Floyd is devastating. We join the recent sentiments and statements of Pope Francis and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) who have spoken up against the sin of racism.

“Love one another” is the commandment given by the Lord. There is no restriction in loving others. There is no room for racism in our society. Let us keep our attitudes, impressions and relationships with the African American Community and other ethnic groups rooted in our Christian Values. It is our responsibility to defend the sacredness of all human life. We are glad to see our young people are in favor of freedom and justice for all.

May the Lord help us to deal with everyone with due respect and dignity. Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and St. Thomas the Apostle, our father in faith, help us and pray for us that we may be always genuine missionary disciples of Jesus, our Lord.

+ *Jacob J. Angadiath*

Mar Jacob Angadiath  
Bishop

(Please read this letter at every Holy Qurbana on June 21, 2020 or send a copy of the same to all members of the Parish/Mission).

