

■ A Prayer for Justice and Reconciliation

(Group divides, repeats petitions alternately and all say italicized words)

For your household with its blessed diversity of races and ethnicities,
We give thanks, O God.

For your presence with those who suffer the pain of oppression because of racism,
We pray, O God.

For the courage and commitment of those who challenge injustice,
We give thanks, O God.

For your forgiveness for our denial and apathy when we have
cooperated with powers of dominance and discrimination,
We pray, O God.

For ears to hear stereotyping in church and community, and the courage to name it,
We pray, O God.

For eyes to see exclusion in our lives and churches and for resolve to confront it,
We pray O God.

For minds to address what the conscience knows,
We pray, O God.

For hearts freed of cynicism and despair and renewed with hope,
We pray, O God.

For faith that acts on the certainty of your love for us and on your desire that we
honor our differences and live in harmony,
We pray, O God.

We pray in fellowship with those from this time and beyond time who have witnessed to your call to community. We covenant with you and each other to be your instruments of justice and reconciliation in this time and in this place. In the name of Christ, who is loving, just, and forgiving, we offer our prayer. Amen.

Mary S. Webber, Dismantling Racism: The Task of the People of God Leaders Manual (St. Louis: January, 1993); original, "Litany for Racial Justice" adapted by Ronice Branding, with permission. Taken from: Fulfilling the Dream, Ronice Branding, Chalice Press, 1995.