

# Good Samaritan Anti-Racism Initiative

At St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School, our teachers, students and families have worked hard to create a community based on Franciscan values of love and empathy. We can build on these principles by using the strength of our community to support others whose voices are under heard, unheard or muted. Today- and for the last 400 years- those oppressed voices are of our Black brothers and sisters. The Good Samaritan Anti-Racism Initiative will provide resources and framework to teachers, students and families to teach anti-racism and create a diverse and inclusive learning environment for the Black community.

Franciscan education teaches reverence of each person's God given dignity. We're shown this in the Gospel of Luke, when hear that Jesus commanded "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy love thyself." When asked who was "thy neighbor," Jesus told the story of a man from Samaria who saw a Jewish man beaten and left to die on the side of a road. Two other Jewish men had previously seen this man lying there and went on their way. It was The Good Samaritan who recognized his God-given dignity and stopped to care for the man, house and feed him in an Inn, and ensure he was taken care of after he left. That is the focus of the Good Samaritan Anti-Racism Initiative: ensure we are *all* living the values shown in the Gospel in loving our Black neighbors by fighting the racism that impacts them daily.

Resources needed to teach and live the values of anti-racism include tangible materials for the classroom, as well as education for teachers, students and families alike. Funds from The Good Samaritan Anti-Racism Initiative will be used to purchase books that teach anti-racism and/or are written by Black authors, ensure curriculum has representation of Black historical figures and role models, as well as provide ongoing training to teachers and administrators on anti-bias and anti-racism practices. While it's important to make sure the classrooms and halls are inclusive, our greatest impact is when we bring all our wisdom, knowledge, skills, and gifts together. With this in mind the Initiative will include the building of an inclusive community for all of our families, with educational resources and events available to everyone.