

Fight Racism Nine Ways

It has been said that racism is like rheumatism -- is never cured but it always gets worse unless you work on it each day. Christopher News Notes offers eight suggestions to combat this virulent evil which, in word and/or in deed, pits members of God's family against each other.

--Create respect for differences, keeping in mind it is normal to be different;

--Teach children that each human being is a child of God, created to fulfill a special mission in life;

--Recognize that there is good and bad in every group;

--Stress the things we have in common;

--Don't generalize from isolated instances;

--Speak up when confronted by prejudice; avoid jokes and expressions that stereotype people;

--Learn as much as you can about the culture of another group;

--When children show prejudice, take action; do nothing to indicate approval.

There seems to be nothing new or extraordinary about these strategies. Each is within reach. What will make these strategies exceptional is that we each put them to work. This is the focus of the Diocesan Committee on Racism which has a year-long program to assist parishes. A story this week on page ten tells how two parishes put this program into action.

The battle against bias must go on, at local parish and community levels. It's one we can't lose.