

## "WELL, I AM NOT A RACIST!"

The death of George Floyd has brought forth anger and indignation for many of us at the treatment of Black people, regardless of our own race and ethnicity. Many have been called to action, and have wondered what each of us can do to address racism and racial inequality in our society.

A common response when presented with the evidence of the effects of racism is to state, "Well, I'm not a racist." While this may be true, being a non-racist is simply not enough to address the problems in our country. We need to be actively anti-racist - speaking out when we hear racist comments from others in our personal spheres. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops stated (more than 40 years ago!) "The absence of personal fault for an evil does not absolve one of all responsibility. We must seek to resist and undo injustices we have not caused, lest we become bystanders who tacitly endorse evil and who share in guilt for it."

The following video, ["How to Be Anti-racist"](#),

provides some insights into how we can respond to circumstances where we observe racism in our day-to-day lives. Warning: includes brief harsh language at about the 2:00 mark.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Bishop Desmond Tutu  
Or as Edmund Burke stated over 200 years ago, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men <and women> to do nothing."

