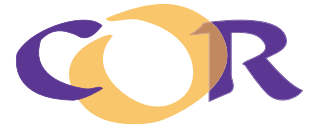


# **A Dozen Ways to Celebrate Commitment Day**



Catholic Schools Opposing Racism, COR invites all the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago—elementary and high schools—to join together in prayer, activities, study and reflection on our shared mission to create a world of racial harmony.

This year COR celebrates COR Commitment Day on Monday, February 10. As you join in the observance, we encourage you to use this year's COR theme that was inspired by the Illinois Bishops' Pastoral Letter: *Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to See with the Eyes of Christ*.

Mindful of this theme, COR invites you to consider creating one or more of the following activities at your school on or around February 10th, and to join our network of prayer and action that seeks to combat racism and create a school system of inclusive communities.

We hope you will be inspired to observe Commitment Day with renewed energy this year, and that you will let COR know what you did—or are planning to do—by email: [cor@racebridges.net](mailto:cor@racebridges.net). You can also visit [www.racebridges.net/cor](http://www.racebridges.net/cor) to learn more about COR's program for this school year, and over the past five years.

## **A Dozen Ways to Celebrate COR Commitment Day at Your School!**

### **1. Create a PLACE OF PRAYER FOR UNITY**

Establish a simple ALTAR/SHRINE/TABLE FOR UNITY in your school where prayers are placed by students and teachers for increased interracial understanding. It could be very simple, like an easel with some symbols/ images of peace and unity, or it could be a small table that contains images, a cross, saints and the COR Pledge. The place of prayer could be positioned in a hallway or entrance to remind students and staff of the daily call to harmony. A prayer service could “dedicate” this place of prayer for the month of February, and then again on Ash Wednesday (3/5/03) another prayer service could re-focus on the need for interracial understanding, repentance and forgiveness throughout the weeks of Lent.

### **2. Invite a SPEAKER FROM the WIDER WORLD**

Invite a speaker to your school who is from a completely different racial and ethnic background to encourage/ challenge students and faculty to see the world from a “different” perspective. A panel of speakers could enrich this idea.

### **3. Introduce students to SAINTS OF A DIFFERENT SHADE**

Create a special focus in your school on saints from non-European traditions revered in the Catholic Church. Look at the lives of these saints and what they have to say to our lives today.

### **4. Learn about JUSTICE SEEKERS AND DOERS**

Create a special focus on the men and women who have fought and struggled for racial justice in the history of the United States and/or throughout global history. Use the rich resources of the social teachings of our Catholic Church for topic formation.

### **5. Conduct an all-school INCLUSIVE PRAYER SERVICE**

Download COR's INCLUSIVE TABLE PRAYER SERVICE from COR's site: [www.racebridges.net/cor](http://www.racebridges.net/cor). Change and adapt this prayer service to your own school needs.

## **6. Listen to the PRAYERFUL VOICES OF OUR CHILDREN**

Download COR's prayers written last year by our elementary school students: [www.racebridges.net/cor](http://www.racebridges.net/cor). Use these prayers in your own locally created prayer service or schedule students to read one of them on the P.A. to begin each period of the day. Use COR's student-written Prayer for Commitment Day; duplicate it for your community and lead students in prayer.

## **7. Use the PRAYERS FOR TEACHERS**

Download COR's prayers for teachers  
Read at a faculty meeting or print one in your bulletin.

## **8. Share the PRAYER FOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD**

Download COR's prayer for school boards and use at your next meeting or send in your next correspondence.

## **9. Listen to official VOICES OF THE CHURCH**

Read, reflect on and study the Pastoral Letters on Racism at your next teacher in-service day. Share excerpts with your older students. Church teaching documents can be found at [www.archdiocese-chgo.org](http://www.archdiocese-chgo.org) in the "Catholic Values" section.

## **10. Host VIDEO DISCUSSIONS**

Use selected videos from the Kaleidoscope Curriculum for your next professional development experience with your teachers or your board. Be sure to preview, read the related section in the curriculum, and prepare to facilitate discussions about how these issues are alive and being responded to in your community.

## **11. Develop IMAGES**

Create a poster for COR Commitment Day with the themes of interracial understanding, peace and unity. Be sure to include the COR Pledge in your display.

## **12. Invite faculty commitment to attend an UPCOMING COR INSERVICE SESSION FOR TEACHERS**

Wednesday, February 19, 2003: 4:00-7:30 p.m. at St. Scholastica Academy

Saturday, March 22, 2003: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Uptown, Chicago

On these dates, Kaleidoscope Curriculum author, Susan O'Halloran, will lead diversity training workshops that will include ways of implementing the Kaleidoscope Curriculum. CPDUs are available for these engaging professional-growth experiences. For more information: [www.racebridges.net/cor](http://www.racebridges.net/cor) or [willes@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:willes@queenofpeacehs.org).

**How will you and your school be a part of COR Commitment Day?**

**May we have 100% of our schools joining in solidarity on COR Commitment Day?**

**May we count on yours?**

**Don't forget to send us your school's participation plan!**