

# TIMELY TOPICS



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS, OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS

## Black Catholic History Part II

### Multi-cultural Awareness Activity:

good for teacher/catechists, adult faith formation, and high school youth

**Needs:** A copy of this *Timely Topics* and the film *The Help* (The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.)

- ☞ View *The Help*
- ☞ Break open the movie
  - ☞ Did you see any stereotypes portrayed in the movie?
  - ☞ Does skin color affect barriers to understanding differences?
  - ☞ Do we allow differences to create a wedge that promotes negative attitudes and behavior?
  - ☞ Could it be that our prejudiced attitudes are so much a part of us that we don't realize when we are being insensitive to someone we perceive as different from us? What are your thoughts about this?
  - ☞ How do you treat the custodial staff at your job? Or treat the person in what is considered a "menial" job?
  - ☞ Do I have preconceived negative ideas about the Latino youth or the black youth waiting with me for an elevator or on the bus? Why?
  - ☞ If you are a guest at a hotel that employs Latinos in housekeeping, do you immediately jump to the conclusion that these staff members are illegal immigrants?
  - ☞ Do I have negative attitudes when I see people who are not like me, or my cultural/racial group? If so, what do I need to do to bring about change within myself to get rid of my own prejudices that challenge my Christian faith?
  - ☞ Why do people, who purport to be Christian and follow the teachings of Jesus, allow class and racial differences to divide us, and mistreat those who are different? Does scripture tell us that some are more worthy than others of equal treatment? Do we really believe all people are children of God?
  - ☞ What are we, as Catholics, called to do as a result of *The Help* and this discussion?





### Resources for the Younger Learners

This film deals with understanding the story of a particular people and with the values of human dignity and respect. Below are resources that may help in leading a discussion on human dignity and respect for the younger learners.

VTE 1922	World Song
VTE 1961	It's In Every One of Us
VTE 2146	Simon the Lamb
DVD 1332	The Velveteen Rabbit
DVD 1333	Veggie Tales: Are You My Neighbor?
DVD 1345	Veggie Tales: Rack, Shack & Benny

### Resources for High School and Adult

DVD 1081	<i>Conversion. Following the Call of Christ</i>
DVD 1105	<i>Confronting Discrimination and Prejudice</i>
DVD 1157	<i>The Soloist</i>
DVM 1053	<i>Bakhita: From Slave to Saint</i>

## Correlation to the Graded Course of Study & National Standards

### Religion Graded Course of Study

**Content Standard IV:** Discover and recognize the development of the Christian person and experience the baptismal call to dignity, relationship, moral decision-making and service.

### National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers

#### Standard I: Human

Core Competency 1.1: Appreciate and affirm the dignity of the human person and the positive values of diverse cultures, races, and socioeconomic groups within their respective self understandings.

Core Competency 1.4: Recognize both the reality of sin with its personal and social consequences and the power of forgiveness and reconciliation to heal persons and relationships.

#### Standard 3: Intellectual

Core Competency 3.5: *Moral theology and Catholic social teaching.* Know and integrate into ministerial practice a theology of the moral life, including Catholic social teaching for the transformation of Church and society.

### GDC: The Six Fundamental Tasks of Catechesis

**III. Moral Formation** which provides the bases for “the moral formation which is most necessary today...” and which “...offers not only the proclaimed word but the lived word too. This moral testimony, which is prepared for by catechesis, must always demonstrate the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, #85)

#### IV. Education for Community Life

“Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, #86)