



**We are
Called**

TO HEAL. TO UNITE. TO JUSTICE.

Team Reflection – Huddle

No. 22: Allies in Eradicating Racism and Building Justice

An article in Forbes magazine describes allies as “any person that actively promotes and aspires to advance the culture of inclusion through intentional, positive and conscious efforts that benefit people as a whole.” [22.1] Anyone can be an ally to another. White men can be allies for women and people of color. Straight people can be allies for individuals in the gay community. Black leaders can be allies for immigrants and refugees, or Latinas can be allies for an Asian neighbor or an Alaska Native in their community. People of faith in one community can be allies for an individual of a different religious tradition.

Catholic health care would not exist to the extent it does today in the U.S. without countless allies. Nearly all founding congregations have stories of a courageous individuals who were allies for others. St. Marianne Cope, OSF, took her healthcare experience to Hawaii to care and advocate for the people living in a distant and marginalized leper colony. In the late-1980s Sister Carol Baltosiewicz, an ICU and ER nurse returned to her hometown of Belleville, Illinois to care for gay men dying of AIDS. A journalist wrote how she “learned to be an ally, to join in the fight for justice.” [22.2]

All those working in Catholic health facilities today have the opportunity to be an ally, not only for the sick in our care, but also for those in communities most affected by the injustices of racism and other prejudices.

Consider

- Who have been allies for me in my life and in my professional journey? What did they do that let me know they supported me in a unique way?
- Have I ever acted as an ally to someone of a different race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability? What did it feel like? What held you back?

Let us pray together,

O God, creator of all peoples, may we wait no longer for others to take the first steps of justice; instead, accompanied by your Spirit, may we be advocates constructing new structures of peace and justice. May all we do reflect your abiding love among our human family today, tomorrow and forever. AMEN.

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[22.1] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/shereatcheson/2018/11/30/allyship-the-key-to-unlocking-the-power-of-diversity/?sh=7e24dcde49c6>

[22.2] <https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-catholic-nun-who-came-to-new-york-to-confront-the-aids-crisis>