

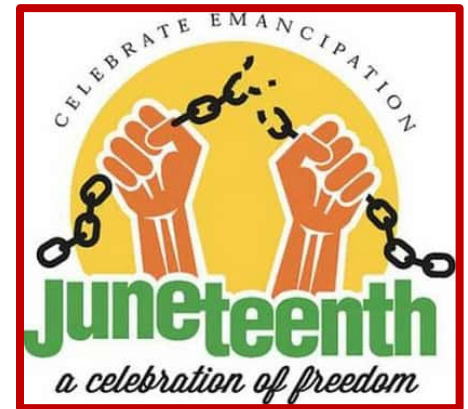
What is the significance of June 19th?

A DAY of REMEMBRANCE

Juneteenth (June 19th) is the day that marks the end of slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American Holiday.

The slaves were freed when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and declared all enslaved people were free. Although Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered two months earlier in Virginia, slavery remained relatively unaffected in Texas. The people were free, but had no idea until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and declared all slaves are free.

REMEMBER: Every summer as the month of June approaches, circle June 19th and celebrate the day that African Americans were declared free people. Approximately 250,000 thousand people were freed over time as some enslavers withheld the information until harvest season was complete. Slavery in America was formally abolished with passage of the 13th amendment in December, 1865. Each year going forward, celebrate and remember Juneteenth as a day of freedom and a call to stand in solidarity as one human family.



The **Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative** is a multiracial group of religious and lay Catholic leaders from parishes and organizations across the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The collaborative formed in September 2017, just before St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley was acquitted of the charge of first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of Anthony Lamar Smith. In anticipation of that controversial verdict and the racial tensions surrounding it, members of the collaborative drafted a statement calling upon Catholics to wrestle with the difficult realities of racism in our faith community and the broader society. Since its founding, the Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative has identified key initiatives to raise awareness of racial inequity and work toward just solutions; it meets monthly to further those efforts.

We seek to be a Catholic voice encouraging our faith communities to challenge and own the history of racism in our Church and community, to engage in the difficult conversation around race, and to participate in action for racial justice in the wider community. Our collaborative recognizes that it is our spiritual duty to combat the sin of personal and institutional racism.

Visit www.catholicracialjusticestl.org for more information on Juneteenth and a list of resources and celebrations.