



Reflecting on Human Dignity and the Issue of Racism

Use the following prompts to process the content in “Reading the Signs of the Times: Racial Discrimination and White Privilege,” or use alone as a way to begin a conversation around human dignity, racism, and what a Christian response to both might require.

- 1** How do you define *dignity*? What is the relationship between dignity and respect? What people, experiences, and beliefs have shaped your understanding of human dignity?
- 2** What does it mean to live with dignity? What social conditions allow people to grow in dignity? What social conditions violate human dignity?
- 3** Identify specific ways you may have seen people expressing and honoring human dignity. Also, identify ways you may have seen people diminish or disregard the dignity of others.
- 4** Have you thought about race a lot in your life? Where did you learn about racial differences? What role does it play in your identity and your relationship to others?
- 5** Has any service opportunity, immersion experience, or personal relationship prompted you to think differently about race? If so, has your thinking surfaced any assumptions or challenged any racial stereotypes that you were unaware of?
- 6** Can you identify ways that racism has affected the community you live in? Have you met people who have been affected by racism? If so, have you been able to discern attitudes or structures that perpetuate racism in these contexts?

These discussion prompts are adapted from “Defending Human Dignity against Discrimination” by Erin M. Brigham, in *See, Judge, Act: Catholic Social Teaching and Service Learning*, revised edition (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic 2018), pages 67–70. Copyright © 2018 by Erin M. Brigham. All rights reserved.

