

*Excerpt from All Saints Day speech by Ralph E. Moore, Jr., St. Ann's Catholic Church of Baltimore, 11/01/2021*

“The Black and Brown American Catholic experiences have always differed from the White American Catholic experiences. Our church membership in the past has been from the back of the church, or the side aisle or the balcony, while white folks (sic) sat wherever they wanted.

We were denied admission to seminaries, convents, Catholic churches, schools, businesses, and hospitals.

We remained faithful to God despite the ungodly treatment we received. The ushers came to the back to collect our offering envelopes but for years we were told we must wait until white folks (sic) received communion before we could receive. My New Orleans, 1896 born Grandma Vance spoke of her life experiences of mistreatment in church. She spoke out about it.

Ms. Laretta Dorsey who sat in the front of this church with her grandchildren was told many Sundays she must go sit in the back. But then she decided to take a stand by sitting down. She told the usher, “I am no longer going to sit in the back. This is God’s house, not your house!” She taught him a lesson!

Racial segregation comes from man, not God. God loves everyone equally. The Catholic Church is our church too! One cannot be a good Catholic and a practicing white supremacist at the same time.

It’s our church, too! God loves everyone equally!”