

## Reading Assignment & Discussion Questions

For this assignment, you will read one scholarly article and one primary source letter that address racial inequality and Catholic education from different perspectives. The goal is to practice reading academic scholarship alongside archival materials and to apply historians' arguments to historical evidence.

- 1942 Letter from Sr. Anna Joseph Becherer, CSJ
- Diane Batts Morrow, "'Making A Way Out of No Way': The Oblate Sisters of Providence Pursue Higher Education Under Jim Crow," *Journal of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium* 12 (2019), 19-45.

As you answer the following questions, your responses should draw on specific examples and language from the texts.

**1. According to Morrow's article, what challenges did the women religious you read about face in their efforts to provide education for Black Catholic students?**

**2. What arguments and strategies did women religious use to oppose segregation and educational inequality?**

**3. Based on both readings, what role did the Catholic Church as an institution play in facilitating, negotiating, and protesting segregation and racial prejudice?**

**4. Compare the language and tone used by Sr. Anna Joseph in her 1942 letter with the language described or quoted by Morrow from the Oblate Sisters of Providence. What similarities or differences stand out, and how might race, audience, or historical context help explain them?**