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## Advisory

**To:** News Editors, Assignment Desks, and Other Interested Persons  
**From:** Ned McGrath  
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**Date:** October 27, 2005  
**RE: **Cardinal Maida Asks for Prayers for Rosa Parks  
and Affirms Ongoing Efforts to Combat Racism****

As the nation mourns the passing of Rosa Parks, Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida has called on the priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit to lead prayers for the civil rights prophet at Masses celebrated this weekend and to affirm ongoing efforts to combat racism in metro Detroit and throughout the country.

In a letter to the priests, Cardinal Maida asked they make reference to Mrs. Parks in their homilies and suggested the following petition be used in the Prayers of the Faithful at Masses:

*“As we give thanks to God for the humble and courageous witness of Rosa Parks, we ask you Lord, for the strength to resist any form of racial prejudice in our minds and hearts; renew our desire to create a nation where the dignity and value of every person will be respected and affirmed, we pray to the Lord.”*

In his remarks to the Grosse Pointe Men’s Club on Tuesday, Cardinal Maida noted: “...I am often asked the question, ‘*What is your biggest challenge in Detroit?*’ I always respond, ‘*Racism.*’ As I consider the situation of Detroit from the perspective of almost sixteen years of service here, racism is very pervasive...in our geography, our social structures, even in how we worship.

“...How do we overcome this very deep-seeded and often emotional reality of our lives? Obviously, direct contact with one another is critical—face-to-face experiences of prayer and service in which each of us is both a *giver* and also a *receiver*,” said the cardinal.

As celebrant and homilist at a Mass this Saturday at the Third Annual Women’s Conference at Macomb Community College in Warren, Cardinal Maida will say, “...We have come a long way since Rosa Parks’ courageous action, but we still have a long way to go. Women are still not adequately valued and respected as true equals in the workplace and in the family...”

Earlier this year, Mrs. Parks was given the Cardinal John Dearden Peace Medal for her contributions to civil rights in the United States. “It was simply her inspiration. She had the courage to say no in a nonviolent way,” said Fr. Edward Farrell, rector at the Holy Trinity Oratory in Detroit’s Corktown area, who got to know Mrs. Parks when he was pastor of Detroit’s St. Agnes Parish.

Mrs. Parks will be remembered in a Mass to celebrate the feast day of St. Martin De Porres, the patron saint of social justice. The Mass will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward Avenue, between Grand Boulevard and Davison, Detroit. For more information, go to [www.AODonline.org](http://www.AODonline.org).

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