

**Closing Prayer Prepared for the COVID-19 Vaccines Town Hall #2: Facts vs. Fiction, by Markton Ross,
Chair, Diocese of Sacramento Black Catholic Ministry, March 27, 2021**

To the author of all creation, we thank you for the opportunity we have been given today to use the gifts of listening, seeing, education and intellect to consider what is real and what is false about the deadly virus of COVID-19. Encourage us to use these gifts we have received to move us to good discernment, to ask questions and to wisdom. Wisdom to guide our own person, and wisdom to guide our loved ones and those around us and of our community who look to us for example and for leadership. When we encounter fear, help us to pause to address our fears with wisdom. When we do not understand, help to seek and find good information. When we experience barriers, help us to be persistent while being appropriately respectful, so that we obtain equitably what we deserve.

For those all around the world, in communities far and near, let us pray for, advocate for, and work for just distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, other needed health care aides, and school educational resources. We pray for, push for, and in fact demand, good leadership to guide us through these troubled times because it is what we deserve. Furthermore, let us in faith and effort commit to removing the structures and historical after-effects that persist and have contributed significantly to the conditions of today that have inequitably caused so much death among the marginalized.

Creator, bless those here that are present to be ambassadors of truth so that others can be ambassadors of truth. Additionally, give courage to and reward the health care providers and other service workers who put themselves at risk so that we can move forward the best we can during these times.

Finally, we pray for a prudent end to this virus and ask for solace and community care for those that suffer from loss of loved ones and economic loss because of this virus. For those who have physically died, we entrust their eternal souls to you and thank you for all the positive they gave to us and ask us to pass along to posterity. Meanwhile, during our time on this earth, counsel us through the stresses of this time and prepare us for the challenges to come. Creator we trust in you and we thank you.

Amen