

Open Wide Our Hearts

An Enduring Call to Love...
a pastoral letter against racism



July 23rd Agenda:



- ★ Pray: Scripture Reading
- ★ Listen & Study: Racism and People of Color
- ★ Reflect: Small Group Sharing
- ★ Closing Thoughts & Prayer
- ★ Items for next week

Pray



Scripture Reading -
1 John 4:19-21





Guidelines for Sharing

Definition of Justice

In small groups, use pages 8-10 to discuss:

1. Describe the scriptural vision of right relationship.
2. How well do the bishops believe we are living up to that vision when it comes to racism?
3. How do the reasons cited explain why the evil of racism still festers in the United States and prevent us from moving forward?

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“We cannot, therefore, look upon the progress against racism in recent decades and conclude that our current situation meets the standard of justice. In fact, God demands what is right and just.”

– *U.S. bishops, Open Wide Our Hearts*



The Standard of Justice

What are life
experiences in the
United States for the
People of Color?

Racism and Native Americans

Native American Experience

In small groups, use pages 10-13 to discuss:

1. How has racism harmed Native Americans and their communities?
2. What do you know about the Boarding School period in U.S. history?
3. The Bishops state, “When one culture meets another, lack of awareness and understanding often leads to grossly distorted value judgements and prejudice. This prejudice fuels attitudes of superiority that are embedded in, and reinforced by, social structures and laws.” (p. 13) ---What are the Bishops referring to in this quote? Where do we see this?

Historical Racism and African Americans

Sr. Thea Bowman

In small groups, use pages 13-15 to discuss:

1. What is chattel slavery? What were the generational effects of this type of slavery on African Americans?
2. After reading the first paragraph on page 14, what does that say about our country?

Racism and Hispanics

Hispanic Experience

In small groups, use pages 15-16 to discuss:

1. How have many Hispanics experienced racism?
2. How does racism influence U.S. immigration policy?

USCCB & Mexico Bishops wrote a pastoral letter: *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*.

- Confront the attitudes of cultural superiority
- Accept migrants as persons with dignity

Racism and Asian Americans

Asian American Experience

Late 19th Century - Chinese Exclusion Act - barred Chinese migration to the United States.

Executive Order 9066 (Feb 19, 1942) - to incarcerate people under suspicion as enemies to inland internment camps.

COVID 19 has brought about discrimination and prejudice towards Asian Americans

The Standard of Justice

What are life experiences
in La Crosse for
People of Color?

La Crosse News Report Series on Systemic Racism

La Crosse Teen's story

Closing Thoughts

Why is it important to “hear, with open hearts, the tragic stories that are deeply imprinted on the hearts of our brothers and sisters” who have experienced racism?

For Next Thursday:



- Topic: Love Goodness
 - Read pps 17-20 from *Open Wide Our Hearts* letter

Closing Prayer

Pray with St. John Paul II “Lord God, our Father, you created the human being, man and woman, in your image and likeness, and you willed the diversity of peoples within the unity of the human family. At times, however, the equality of your sons and daughters has not been acknowledged, and Christians have been guilty of attitudes of rejection and exclusion, consenting to acts of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic difference. Forgive us and grant us the grace to heal the wounds still present in your community on account of sin, so that we will all feel ourselves to be your sons and daughters.”

You can find the resources on the
Parish Website.



Our email is **schmitzpk@gmail.com**