**Resources**

**Assembled by Diocese of Rochester Public Policy Committee**

**Open Wide Our Hearts:The Enduring Call to Love**

pastoral letter against racism - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

*The injustice and harm racism causes are an attack on human life. The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently and forcefully against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other forms of violence that threaten human life. It is not a secret that these attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionally affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness.* ***As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue****. Accordingly, we will not cease to speak forcefully against and work toward ending racism. Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent in each person. The Apostle James commands the Christian: “show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ” (Jas 2:1).* (page 30 of the pastoral)

* Prayers of the Faithful and Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism
* Four Weekly Reflections for Parish Bulletin or website
* Insert in your bulletin or post on your website, one or all the USCCB resources: *A Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities*; *What Is Systemic Racism*; *Scripture Reflection: Unity in the Body of Christ.*
* Offer the reading list to parishioners and/or invite parishioners to view one of the films or listen to TED talk on racism.
* Use the USCCB resource, *Practical Steps for Eradicating Racism: An Invitation*, as a discussion starter among pastoral staff or by parish ministry committees/groups.
* See the list of age-appropriate study guides developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
* Download a copy of the full pastoral (usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf)
* Ask pastor/homilists to reflect on the pastoral’s message during a homily
* Contact the Justice & Peace/Parish Social Ministry coordinator at your local Catholic Charities office for help

**Access these resources:**  <https://www.dor.org/about/office-ministry-directory/catholic-charities/public-policy-committee/>