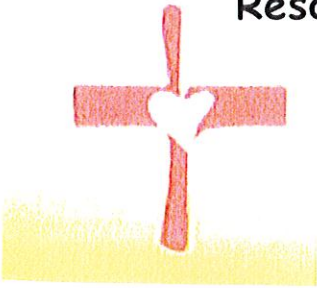


## Resources for Respect Life Month ~ October 2019



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

a 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 disproportionately 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
- Weekly Bulletin Education – four weeks
- Insert the USCCB resource, *A Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities* or the backgrounder, *What Is Systemic Racism*, in the bulletin for parishioners to take home
- Offer an Adult Book Study/Discussion or Film Series
- 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](https://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf))
- Ask your pastor/homilists to reflect on the pastoral during a homily on Respect Life Sunday or other weekend during the month of October
- Contact the Justice & Peace/Parish Social Ministry coordinator at your local Catholic Charities office for help



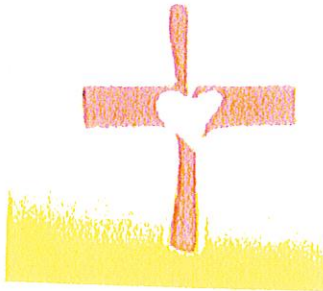
Roman Catholic  
DIOCESE of ROCHESTER  
**Catholic Charities**  
1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, New York 14624-1890  
Phone: (585) 328-3210 Fax: (585) 529-9534

## Resources for Respect Life Month ~ October 2019

for

# Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love

a pastoral letter against racism  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



October is Respect Life Month in the U.S. Catholic community.

Please consider planning opportunities during October 2019 for your parish or school or campus community to learn and reflect on the pastoral of our U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call To Love*.

The attached ideas and resources (from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other sources) were assembled by the Diocese of Rochester Public Policy Committee/Catholic Charities.

We invite you to contact the Justice and Peace/Parish Social Ministry staffperson at the Catholic Charities office serving your county for help planning and using these resources. A contact list is included in this packet. Thank you!

**Regional Offices:**

Catholic Family Center, Rochester  
Catholic Charities of Livingston County, Mt. Morris  
Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, Geneva  
Catholic Charities of Chemung-Schuyler Counties, Elmira  
Catholic Charities of Steuben County, Bath  
Catholic Charities of Tompkins-Tioga Counties, Ithaca

**Specialty Regional Offices:**

Catholic Charities Community Services, Rochester  
Kinship Family & Youth Services, Hornell  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Elmira

**Affiliates:**

Providence Housing Development Corporation  
Camp Stella Maris

Help that works.  
Hope that lasts.