



# OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS

The Enduring Call To Love  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



# Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, I invite you into  
The very depths of my being.

Lead me, guide me, coach me,  
Encourage me, and challenge me.

Direct me in all things.

Teach me to become a great decision  
maker,

So that in every moment of every day  
I can choose what is good.

Amen

# What Is Racism?

"Racism arises when-either consciously or unconsciously - a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful. Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice." *Page 3 of Open Wide Our Hearts.*

# Unity in the Body of Christ

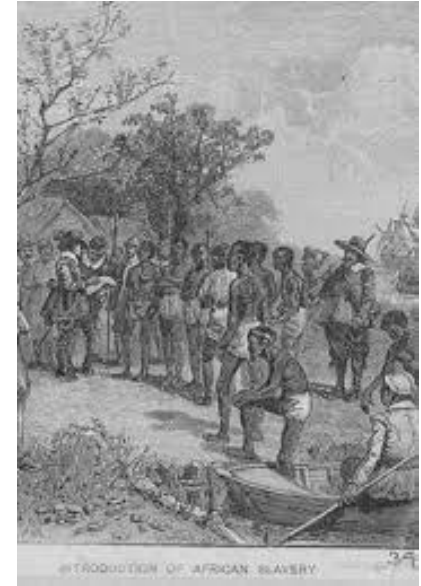
Scripture Reflection – 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14, 16-21, 24-26

*Read the passage then answer the following question. Email response to [youthministristclare@gmail.com](mailto:youthministristclare@gmail.com)*

- How does the evil of racism frustrate God's design of a diverse but united human family in which everyone is recognized as a valuable and vital member of that family?
- *Racism manifests itself in an individual's thoughts, attitudes, actions and inactions.*

# U.S. Bishops *Open Wide Our Hearts*

- "As Christians, we are called to listen and know the stories of our brothers and sisters. We must create opportunities to hear, with open hearts, the tragic stories that are deeply imprinted on the lives of our brothers and sisters, if we are to be moved to empathy to promote justice."
- What stories have you heard from your family or friends about their experiences?





# Racism in Our Church?

## ***Fr. Augustus Tolton***

- -Denied entry into the seminary.
- -Traveled to Rome to become 1<sup>st</sup> black priest born in America.

## ***Role of St. Katharine Drexel***

- In working toward racial reconciliation

*Read about holy men and woman who acted to combat racism around them.*

*Visit: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/prophetic-witness-resource.pdf>*



# What can you do to challenge racism?



## PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

*Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.*

*We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.*

*We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.*

*We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.*

*Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.*

