THE CHARITY OF CHRIST COMPELS US!

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

ERECTED 1963, FIRST IN THE WORLD NAMED AFTER MOTHER SETON

1377 EAST MAIN STREET, SHRUB OAK, NY 10588

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Robert A. Quarato, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Madurawalage Ranjith (Madu), Parochial Vicar
Rev. Fr. John J. Figueroa, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael F. Wilson, Associate

PASTORAL STAFF

Mr. James Scolaro, Parish Manager
Mr. Brian Donahue, Regional School Principal
Mrs. Donna Vallario, Religious Education Coordinator
Ms. Jennifer Lavoie, Director of Sacred Music and Organist
Mr. Charles Deierlein, Parish Trustee
Mrs. Geralyn Fanelli, Parish Trustee
Mr. James Forbes, Finance Council Chair
Mrs. Janet Angelillo, Parish Council Chair

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

THE LORD'S DAY
Saturday: **5:30PM**, (Contemporary Choir)
Sunday: **7:00** (no music)**, 8:00, 9:30** (Family Mass, Sept-June)
11:00AM (Solemn Choir)**, 12:30PM**

Monday-Friday, **7:00AM, 9:00AM**
Saturday, **9:00AM**
Morning Prayer: Monday-Saturday **8:45AM**
For **Holy Day** schedule, consult bulletin

PARISH CONTACTS

RECTORY OFFICE
(914) 528-3547
FAX: (914) 528-4216
E-mail seton@bestweb.net
www.seton-parish.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(914) 528-8553
FAX: (914) 528-1880
E-mail setonre@bestweb.net

REGIONAL SCHOOL
(914) 528-3563
FAX: (914) 528-0341
E-mail tcapellupo@seasschool.com
www.SeasSchool.com

Handicapped accessible

JUNE 7, 2020 **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor, Mary Ellen Modico
Parish Staff Assistant, Teresa McCue-Fleming
Parish Custodians, Joseph Napolitano & Luis Uruchima
Religious Ed. Secretary, Ivana Gomez
Religious Ed. Staff Assistants, Jim Arena & Jane Gentile
Religious Ed. Registrar, Martina Norris

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism/Becoming a Catholic
Adults (RCIA): call the rectory for information
Infants: Parent Instructions, 2nd Saturday, 11:00am
Celebrations: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sun., 1:30; 4th Sat, Noon

Reconciliation (Confession)
Sat. 4-5:30PM; **Thurs.** 9:30AM; **15 Minutes Before Sunday Masses; Other times:** upon request.

Marriage
The Sacrament of Matrimony requires specific preparation. Contact a priest **at least 6 months** before the planned ceremony. Archdiocesan marriage instruction is mandatory.

Anointing of the Sick/Holy Communion for the Homebound
Contact a priest for ministry to the sick and aged at home or at a local healthcare facility. Upon request, Holy Communion will be brought to **any Catholic** who is seriously ill or homebound.

Confirmation
Baptized adults who have never received First Communion and/or Confirmation should contact a priest to complete their Christian Initiation through the R.C.I.A. process.

Holy Orders/Religious Vocations
The clergy are happy to discuss the prospect of a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life.

POPULAR DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday-Friday, Our Lady Memorial Chapel, 12:00-3PM
First Friday, 12:00-6:00PM
First Saturday, 9:30-10:30AM
Divine Mercy Chaplet, Monday-Friday, 3PM

Novenas, following 9:00AM Mass
Monday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Parish Patroness
Thursday, Miraculous Medal

Recitation of the Rosary, Daily, following 9:00AM Mass

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday, officially called "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity," is one of the few celebrations of the Christian Year that commemorates a reality and doctrine rather than a person or event. Today, Christians remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While the word "trinity" does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 along with many other Bible passages.

The concept of the Holy Trinity can never be completely understood. That is the mystery. But it is clearly taught in Scripture and explained in Tradition. Understanding this comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred. However, although we ponder the Most Holy Trinity on this special day, we commemorate the Trinity at every Eucharist. By its very nature, every Holy Mass is Trinitarian: when we offer TO the FATHER, WITH the SON (as part of His Mystical Body), IN the HOLY SPIRIT.

Monthly Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis

The Holy Father asks the people of the world to pray with him for the following during June:

Prayer intention for evangelization—*The Way of the Heart*: We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

26th Annual
Children's Memorial Mass

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the 26th Annual Children's Memorial Mass has been postponed. We will reschedule the Mass as soon as it is considered safe to gather.

Thank You for Everything These Past Weeks

The celebration of Pentecost marks the conclusion of the Easter Season and a perfect time to express gratitude for so many blessings.

For Your Time

The members of parish leadership, our staff (parish, religious education and school), and numerous volunteers have been indispensable in helping not only with the holy seasons of Lent and Eastertide, but also with the ups and downs associated with the pandemic. Particularly worthy of note are the leaders of our numerous ministries and parish groups who have reached out to members and others via phone or email and conducted meetings on zoom. The work of Seton charity has never ceased. Thank you for your faithful service to Seton!

For Your Talent

So many assisted behind the scenes with the numerous liturgies over these weeks. Many helped with decorations and preparing and distributing Easter Holy Water and Blessed Palm. Our custodial staff daily sanitizes the church, in addition to doing routine maintenance. A special note of thanks to our Director of Sacred Music, Jennifer Lavoie and her team of dedicated volunteer cantors who have provided liturgical music for you inspiration and edification during these many weeks. Bravi!

For Your Treasure

We are humbled by your generosity during these many weeks. So many have dropped off envelopes and used online giving to keep us going, more than a few at great sacrifice during this time of financial uncertainty. In addition, the priests wish to express our personal appreciation for all the support, encouragement, prayers, Mass cards, greeting cards, notes, St. Patrick's Day gifts, St. Joseph's Day gifts, Easter baskets, prepared food, baked goods, wine, spirits, chocolate bunnies, eggs and peeps we received. Your love and affection are so very much appreciated. Please know that you and your loved ones are always in our thoughts and prayers!

MASS INTENTIONS

	5:30	George LaRocca
Sun	**Jun 7**	**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**
	7:00	Rose Capobianco
	8:00	Dec'd Mbrs Kubicki & Pikula Families
	9:30	Frances & Dominick Stingone
	11:00	Living & Dec'd Mbrs Delehanty, Fitzpatrick & Barry Families
	12:30	People of Seton Parish
Mon	**Jun 8**	**Weekday**
	7:00	Edward Gjonaj
	9:00	Lawrence DeNoia
Tue	**Jun 9**	**Weekday/*St. Ephrem, Deacon & Church Doctor***
	7:00	Dec'd Mbrs Higgins Family
	9:00	Michael Giancarlo
Wed	**Jun 10**	**Weekday**
	7:00	Gina Zanini
	9:00	William, Ann & Nickey Murphy
Thu	**Jun 11**	**St. Barnabas, Apostle**
	7:00	Saud Almana
	9:00	Lawrence DeNoia
Fri	**Jun 12**	**Weekday**
	7:00	Pauline Dougherty
	9:00	Louis, Gina, & Robert Zanini
Sat	**Jun 13**	**St. Anthony of Padua, Priest & Church Doctor**
	9:00	COLLECTIVE: • Anthony Gentile • Phil Ronca, Jr. • Giorgio Cavalli • Msgr. Romualdo Sosing • Msgr. Harry Byrne
	5:30	Nicholas Bellomo
Sun	**Jun 14**	**THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST**
	7:00	Brian Wade
	8:00	People of Seton Parish
	9:30	Julia Gray & Dec'd Mbrs Gray Family
	11:00	Dec'd Mbrs Cosgrove Family
	12:30	Grace & Peter Tocco

WEEKLY MEMORIAL

The ***Eternal Flame*** in Our Lady Memorial Chapel, burning in memory of deceased children, and those lost on September 11, 2001, has been donated in memory of **Tommy Roberts.**

HELP AVAILABLE

If you or anyone in our area is in need of any kind of assistance (spiritual, emotional, psychological, financial) please know that help is available. Please call the parish office.

Mass Intentions

Be assured that the priests of the parish will offer daily Mass privately for all scheduled Mass Intentions, on the specific day requested or as close as possible to the day.

Select JUNE Events

Mon, Jun 22 Seton Parish Founding, 1963
2nd Collections: Emergency Maintenance, Seton School, Latin America & Home Missions, Seton Missalettes

WELCOME TO SETON!

Be assured of our concern for you and your loved ones during this time. You are most welcome to stop by our church, visit our website and participate in our liturgies online. May our Lord bless and protect you and your families.

Father's Day Mass Remembrance

As a spiritual gift, have your father remembered at the Altar of Sacrifice during our Father's Day Masses. Father's Day intention envelopes are available at the doors of the church. Feel free to use both sides of the envelope to record the names of (living and deceased) father, grandfathers, godfathers and other fatherly men in your life and the life of your family. You may place the envelopes in the collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office. All Father's Day Masses, with the exception of the Saturday 5:30pm Vigil Mass offered for all the People of Seton, will be offered for these special intentions. The envelopes will then be placed near the Tabernacle for the remainder of the Month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Two Catholic Charities Helplines are available to parishioners requiring assistance:
• Requests For Any Type of Assistance:
Catholic Charities Help Line: 888-744-7900 (Daily, 9am - 8pm)
• Immigration Specific Questions:
New York State (NYS) New Americans Hotline, operated by Catholic Charities
800-566-7636 (M-F 9am -8pm, Sat-Sun 9am-5pm)

Two Public Help and Information phone lines are available to all New Yorkers:
• NYC 311: Dial 311 daily, 24 hours a day. Provides quick, easy access to all non-emergency government services within the NYC boroughs.
• Hudson Valley Region 211: Dial 211 between 8am – 10pm to speak with a call specialist or visit: www.hudson211.org

Mass Book Opening!! Mass Cards, etc.

We will open the Mass Book for October, November and December 2020 **on Monday, June 15th at 9:30am on the back patio** (next to the rectory)**.** We ask that everyone wear masks and maintain a 6 foot distance from one another. The Memorial Offerings for June and July will also be available.

Young Adult Outreach

www.catholicnyc.com

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Joseph V. Giandurco (Msgr. Joseph Giandurco's father), **Jessica Fuentes, Msgr. Romualdo Sosing, Msgr. Harry Byrne**

Next Weekend

Second Collection: Archdiocesan

June 13th/14th: Church in Latin America & Home Missions

Be In-FORMED

We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org which gives you 24/7 access to over 300 quality Catholic online programs, 99+ movies, 101+ audios, & 98+ E-Books. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Study: *Symbolon: The Journey of Faith: Trinity, Faith and the God Who is Love* or *The Wild Goose- Breath of God.* Watch: *Why God Still Matters.* Listen to: *The Holy Spirit- The Third Person of the Trinity.* On the 13th Watch: *Saint Anthony: The Miracle Worker of Padua* or for kids: *Lukas Storyteller – Saint Anthony of Padua.*

Knights of Columbus Will Continue Food Drive at Seton

We thank Seton's generous parishioners for their food donations to help support the needy served by the Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Mohegan Lake. Please continue to leave your canned goods and other non-perishable food in the drop off boxes in Seton's church lobby. A Knight will stop by weekly, and deliver all donations to the pantry. *Thank you for helping our needy neighbors!*

June, the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June is traditionally dedicated to foster devotion and piety for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In 1677, Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, in France in a vision and revealed His Most Sacred Heart. She said "I could plainly see His heart, pierced and bleeding, yet there were flames, too, coming from it and a crown of thorns around it. He told me to behold His heart which so loved humanity. Then He seemed to take my very heart from me and place it there in His heart. In return He gave me back part of His flaming heart." Jesus told St. Margaret Mary that the ingratitude of humanity for His love was worse than His physical sufferings. We need to console Him and do reparation, first for our own sins and then for the sins of others. We console Him by placing our faith and trust in Him, following His commandments, being faithful to our daily duty, honoring His Sacred Heart, loving God and our neighbor. Spend time with Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament to console our wounded Savior and to make reparation for sin.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

SETON UPDATE

Until further notice, all public celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass have been suspended in the Archdiocese of New York. This drastic measure has been taken in the best interest of the health and well being of our people during this State of Emergency.

This means that there will be no public Sunday Masses or daily Masses until further notice. Visit www.seton-parish.org for livestream Masses daily.

Be assured that the priests of the parish will offer Mass privately for all scheduled Mass Intentions.

When unable to receive Holy Communion, we recommend all make an Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Confessions will be heard in the Chapel and outside (drive-thru) Saturday from 4:00-5:30pm, and in the Chapel Thursday at 9:30am. No Sunday Confessions at this time.

The church will remain open for prayer during the day:
Monday-Friday, 5:30am-9:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am-7:00pm
Sunday, 6:00am-3:00pm.
Please note that during broadcast services the church will be closed.

Eucharistic Adoration follows regular schedule.

The Rectory Office is closed. Call 914-528-3547 for parish business, leave a message and someone will get back to you.

We ask you to use your best judgment (especially members of at-risk populations) about coming to the church for prayer and we thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Continue to pray at home, especially with your families. Devotions such as Bible reading and recitation of the Holy Rosary are recommended to all. Visit www.seton-parish.org for broadcast services.

We will keep you updated as things unfold.

May God bless and protect you and your loved ones,

Fr. Quarato
Pastor

YOUR DONATIONS TO SETON DO MATTER

COLLECTION BASKET FOR SUNDAY DONATIONS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARE AT THE ALTAR OF THE CHURCH. YOU CAN ALSO BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE PARISH OFFICE LOBBY DAILY FROM 9AM TO 5PM OR MAIL THEM IN OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING SERVICE. THE LINK IS PROVIDED ON OUR WEBSITE: SETON-PARISH.ORG. *THANK YOU FOR YOU CONTINUED GENEROSITY!*

A Note about Becoming Sponsors For Baptism and Confirmation

It is a great honor to be asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. The role of a "godparent" is to be an "other parent" in matters of our holy Faith. That is why sponsors must be **practicing Catholics**, **16 years of age or older (14 years old in the Archdiocese of New York),** having **received Catholic Confirmation and currently living a good Christian moral life**. **If the sponsor is married, that person must be in a valid Catholic Church marriage**. One sponsor is required for Confirmation. It is customary to have two for Baptism, in which case one must be male and the other female. Parents may not be sponsors. A baptized non-Catholic may replace the second Baptism sponsor as a Christian witness. Non-Christians may not be Sponsors. Former Catholics may not be sponsors.

A nominated sponsor is asked to get certification from his/her current parish. This is a declaration by a priest/deacon that the individual is qualified to be a sponsor according to Church Law. To be so certified, the individual must be a **current parishioner of the particular parish where the certification is being sought, and be known to the priest/deacon as being a faithful practicing Catholic, attending Mass there weekly**.

Those away at college or graduate school or in the military should seek certification from their campus ministries or chaplains.

Unfortunately, at times, family members or friends are chosen to be sponsors with good intentions, but are found to be ineligible according to Church Law. Also, more and more, people seem to think that they are still "parishioners" of their childhood parish, where they attended school or received sacraments years ago, while no longer living in the area or attending Mass there regularly. **It is important for all individuals to be active members of their local Catholic faith communities**.

Here, at Seton, Certificates of Sponsorship are given by the pastor to registered members of the parish who are practicing Catholics, and who meet the above criteria. Please call the rectory to inquire about getting a certificate.

Prayer for Racial Healing

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Online Giving with WeShare

Thank you for considering online giving for your support of our parish. Online giving is safe, simple, and convenient. It benefits our parish by helping to streamline our administrative process and providing more accurate budgeting. Please set up your online giving by clicking the link under the title, "New Donors" provided on our website, www.seton-parish.org.

REMEMBER:

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY,
A PRIEST IS AVAILABLE 24/7
JUST CALL THE RECTORY AT 914.528.3547.

Date Change!
50th Wedding Anniversary Mass

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, has been postponed. We will let those who signed up know when a new date has been decided.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

As is our custom, a person's name will appear for four weeks, after which it will be removed unless we hear from the family.

Joan Albanese, Joan Arena, Madelaine Berrigan, Anthony Bucello, James Cancro, Sr., James Cancro, Jr., Robert John Carolan, Martha Chalco, Linda Ciccarello, Ann Ciraco, Ronald & Charlene Ciraco, Josephine Conklin, Edward DiCaprio, Thelma Doebbler, Linda Dwyer, Caroline Enright, Madison Frost, Concetta Fusco, Marie Gillespie, Malachy Francis Goldrick, Erica Higgins, Nicole Horwitt, James Howard, Ann Marie Imbriale, Wayne Koshofer, Eileen Kostecke, Milan Krupa, Lee Meyerholz, Lorraine Monastra, Peter Montegari, Siobhan Mooney, Michael Murphy, Steve Murphy, Joan Fontana Nastasi, William O'Reilly, Lt. Victor Prato, Diane M. Quinn, Christine Rock, Stephen Rodgers, Helen Shubik, Ginny Spina, Marguerite Thiemann, Lisa Valle

DECEASED PARISHIONERS

Parishioners who "passed from this life to the next" during the week of June 6th in previous years: **Gary Bonaventre, Mary R. Slaker, Thomas Allen, Caroline Melhan, Grace Mastronardi, Maria Perry, Michael Faughnan, Sophie Lynch, Samantha Barone, Florence Lutomski, Lydia Rainero, Thomas Cooper, Ferdinando Mannarino, Elizabeth Saow, Thomas Gearuty, Frances Rapena, Helen Carotiglio, Elizabeth Ann Gualtiere, Rose A. Nuzzo, Michael Dawson, Dorothea Peden, Eileen Baldante, Suzanne Fago, Raphael L. Teixeira, Nicolas Aguirre, Jane Smith, John Bartunek, Margaret Alexander, Frank Paternosto, Mary Lechleiter, Nino Battista, Elizabeth Ann Lynch-Gonzalez, Rosa Ana Nieto-Lena, Mary Fitzpatrick, Marhanunzia Greco, Paula Mazza, John J. Dell'Angelo, Peter R. De Montravel, Antoinette Bersito, Hannah J. O'Grady, Jane Ball, Elizabeth Nugent**

BULLETIN SPOTLIGHT

This week, Seton Parish highlights **Dr. Vernon Peryea, Optometrist** and **Avon/Teresa Echeverria** whose advertisements at the rear of our bulletin, along with nearly 100 other local businesses, make possible the printing of this parish bulletin by the John Patrick Publishing Company, 52 weeks a year. **When the need arises, please patronize our advertisers.**

COMMISSION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Chair
Rev. A. R. Bernard, Sr., President ~ Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Vice President

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May 31, 2020

CORL Statement on the Death of George Floyd

The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us, "There is a time to be silent and a time to speak out." We of different faiths cannot remain silent after we watched the shattering video of a police officer keeping his knee on the neck of George Floyd who was crying out "I can't breathe." Such inhumane treatment of another human being requires a collective response from all people of conscience. The pursuit of justice is a fundamental tenet of our respective religious traditions, and thus we stand together to declare that all life is sacred, and all people are equal before the law in a democratic society.

We respect those who want to honor George Floyd's memory with peaceful protest against the horror, evil, and sin that is racism. We also support the members of Floyd's family who said, in part, "We cannot endanger each other as we respond to the necessary urge to raise our voices in unison and in outrage. Looking and violence distract from the strength of our collective voice."

We often speak of "thoughts and prayers." We will offer our many prayers of healing, but we need not only serious thoughts but also firm action as we work together with all members of our community to find that critical cure for human hatred.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan	Rev. Dr. A.R. Bernard, Sr.	Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
Chair	President	Vice President

Members

Imam Talib 'Abdur-Rashid
Bishop Victor Brown
Rabbi Angela Warnick Buchdahl
Elder David Buckner
Rev. Gregory Chisholm
Rev. Herbert Daughtry
Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio
Rev. Que English
Imam Dr. Tahir Kukiqi
Rabbi Michael Miller
Bishop John O'Hara
Rev. Al Sharpton
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

The Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities

In their new pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, the Catholic bishops of the United States invite conversion of hearts, minds, and institutions in order to address the evil of racism that still exists in our communities.

By our baptism, we are members of Christ's body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God. We know that the evil of racism cuts to the core of God's plan for humanity, devaluing the diversity God created within the human family. As followers of Christ, we seek to reclaim the God-given sanctity of each person's inviolable human dignity. The bishops remind us, "The command of love requires us to make room for others in our hearts. It means that we are indeed our brother's keeper (see Gn 4:9)."

Some among us may want to believe that our country has moved beyond the reality of racism that has so profoundly stained its past, or that racism does not involve us. Almost every day, news headlines demonstrate that our country's "original sin" of racism continues to impact the lives of many Americans, many of them Catholic—particularly those who belong to the African American, Hispanic/Latino, or Native American communities.

There are signs that racism's legacies remain prevalent in many systemic inequalities that have deep impact on people of color. The bishops write, "Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality—economic and social—that we still see all around us."

"We read the headlines that report the killing of unarmed African Americans by law enforcement officials. In our prisons, the numbers of inmates of color, notably those who are brown and black, is grossly disproportionate. Despite the great blessings of liberty that this country offers, we must admit the plan truth that for many of our fellow citizens, who have done nothing wrong, interactions with the police are often fraught with fear and even danger."
– *U.S. bishops,* Open Wide Our Hearts

Within the walls of the Church, many people of color have experienced discrimination and outright racism. Leadership has been lacking. The bishops write, "All too often, leaders of the Church have remained silent about the horrific violence and other racial injustices perpetuated against African Americans and others." Reflecting on these realities, the bishops implore us to find ways to actively work against the evil of racism. We must seek racial justice within our Church and in our country. Let us all allow the Holy Spirit to convert our hearts to do the work of healing, so we may live authentically in true relationship to one another. Let the fruit of this conversion be evident in our full celebration and integration of ethnic and cultural diversity, which is truly a gift from God.

How Can I Respond?

(1) **Listen to and know the stories of our brothers and sisters who have suffered from racism in history, and in the present**. True and authentic encounter is difficult but worth the effort. Authentic relationships require vulnerability, humility, and getting outside of your comfort zones. For some, this will mean actively seeking opportunities to engage with people of diverse backgrounds. For others, this might mean raising your voice or sharing your story. Through authentic engagement we bring together diverse perspectives and experiences which honor the fullness of God's plan.

(2) **Work to address both individual and systemic racism.** Racism can be individual, when persons fail to recognize certain groups as created in the image of God and equal in dignity, or it can be systemic, where practices or policies are upheld that treat certain groups of people unjustly. These systems are often perpetuated due to the silence or unawareness of many. Commit to learning more about racism and employment, housing, wealth, education, criminal justice, and voting—and then get involved in diocesan, parish or community efforts to pray and work for conversion of both hearts and systems.

(3) **Think about what you can do, wherever you are**. Commit to raising your awareness in whatever situations you find yourself.

a. **As people of faith,** we can intentionally work to create spaces of welcome and opportunities for encounter. Create opportunities for sharing of stories and learn how racism impacts our communities. Regularly think about whose voices may be missing as leaders and volunteers in parish ministry. In parishes and schools, educators can use activities from usccb.org/racism to integrate content on the pastoral letter into their lessons.

b. **In your family,** think about who you socialize with on a regular basis. Intentionally create opportunities to interact with those you may not run into over the normal course of your week. Where in your community do you see diverse groups of people come together? Parents: talk with your children about race. Continuing to talk with them about everyone's human dignity and the pain of racism in our country will help form them to respect the dignity of all. Find prayers for children at usccb.org/racism.

c. **At school or work,** ask: How you can learn more about other cultures? What resources are available to you? If there are others who are treated differently because of their race, speak up. Think about what you might do if you hear someone make disparaging remarks about a classmate or coworker. How can you be ready to respond?

(4) **As individuals and communities of faith, examine your conscience**. We all must ask ourselves: Where have I not lived as an example of Christ's love? Where have my attitudes or perceptions caused me to devalue persons of other cultures or ethnicities? When have I been unnecessarily suspicious or allowed a preconceived notion to overshadow the human nature of another? When have I seen the "other" instead of welcoming an opportunity to listen to the story of that person's life, struggles, or joys?

For More Information

Read the new pastoral letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love* and then talk with others about how your community can respond to the bishops' invitation in the pastoral letter. USCCB resources against racism are at usccb.org/racism.

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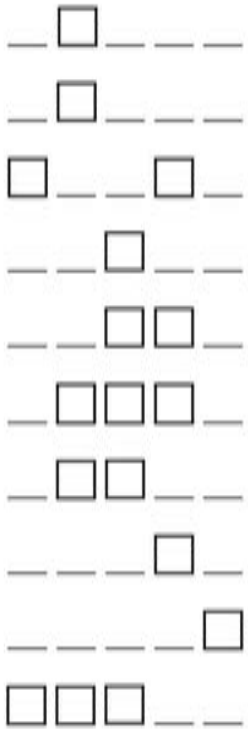
What does Jesus say we should believe in?

Put the words in alphabetical order. Then transfer the letters in the boxes to the lines below.

RAINY	MONEY
FROST	SONGS
LANDS	AGAIN
DAISY	HONEY
BONES	PILLS



__ __ __ __, __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __.

God Sent His Son

Jesus was teaching Nicodemus about God. What did He say?

Use the chart below to figure out the missing letters. The number given is the total of the vertical and horizontal numbers, so you may have more than 1 choice.

Here is an example: __ (5) = O (3+2) or W (4+1)

	3	4	5	6	7
1	Y	W	N	G	R
2	O	S	L	N	D

"F__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ ve __
(5 8) (7 5 9) (6 5) (7 5) (9)

the __ __ __ __ __ that He gave
(5 5 8 7 9)

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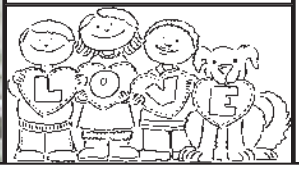

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