



Open Wide Our Hearts Virtual Exhibit

Over the past several months, we have seen racial injustice make national headlines leading to calls for our country to have deeper conversations about issues of race in our workplaces, in our schools, and in our churches. Talking about race can be uncomfortable and certainly poses challenges, but if we are not willing to engage this issue we will never be able to achieve racial healing and reconciliation. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls his disciples the “light of the world,” and urges them not to hide their light. As disciples of Christ, we have a responsibility to bring this conversation to the light and let the love of Christ bring healing to our world.

We know that initiating and leading these conversations can be intimidating, so we want to help. We are excited to announce the launch of the Open Wide Our Hearts Virtual Exhibit. This exhibit, inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2018 [pastoral letter](#) against racism, launched in November 2019 as a traveling exhibit in the Diocese of Green Bay. It features photos of Catholics from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, alongside written narratives that document what life in the church of the Diocese of Green Bay has been like for them as a person of color. The virtual exhibit allows for these stories to be seen and heard by more people and is ready-made for you to use with students, families, staff, or parishioners to begin this difficult but important conversation.

I encourage you to take some time to check out the exhibit at www.openwideourheartsgb.org. After you have viewed the exhibit, let me know how I can help you bring this exhibit to your parish or school. Whether you need help planning an event, developing lesson plans, or promoting the exhibit in your community, I want to help you share the exhibit with your students, families, staff, or parishioners and to start this critical conversation. Call me at (920) 272-8321 or email me at pweiss@gbdioc.org and let’s get to work!

“To work at ending racism, we need to engage the world and encounter others – to see, maybe for the first time, those who are on the peripheries of our own limited view.” – *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*