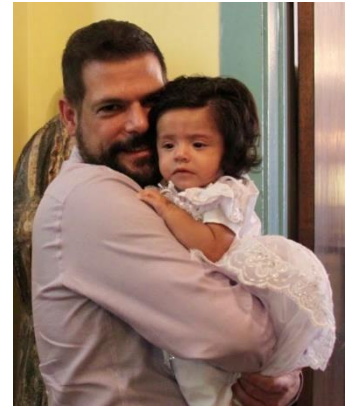
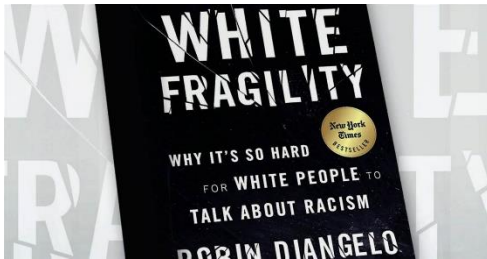


**Racial Equity and Reconciliation Roundtable
Report for the 2020 Ascension Annual Report
by Enrique Vilaseco**

Seven Ascension parishioners met every two weeks from late August to mid-December to consider issues of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and misogyny. The group was small and participatory and convened via Zoom under the leadership of Vestry members Cheryl Peterson and myself. Fr. Alonzo Pruitt was also helpful during early discussions.



Racial justice became the main focus of our meetings. We read portions of *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo and *Radical Welcome* by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers (whose ministry title is *Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation*). A couple of members shared insights from virtual webinars hosted by the Diocese of Chicago, Bexley-Seabury Seminary, and St. Chrysostom's Church. A popular feature of several meetings included small group



discussions focused on topics of identity and micro-aggressions. All of those involved enjoyed learning more about their fellow parishioners and the diverse life experiences they bring to our worship community. Everyone agreed that it is important to establish a “brave space” where these issues can be discussed with honesty and mutual respect.

During 2021, the Reconciliation Roundtable will develop several small group learning experiences for the Ascension community via Zoom. Please look for further information in the weekly newsletter beginning in February and speak to/email Enrique with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Enrique Vilaseco, convener

*The photo shows Enrique with his goddaughter Zuleika Navarez,
on the morning of her August 2018 baptism at Ascension.*