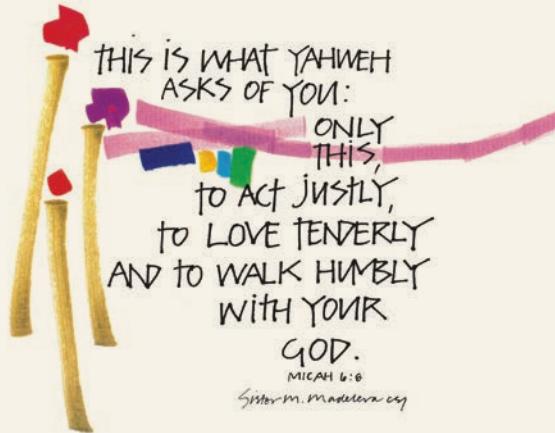


open **wide** our hearts —*the enduring call to love*



Four-Session Process for Faith Communities on the USCCB Pastoral on Racism | 2020

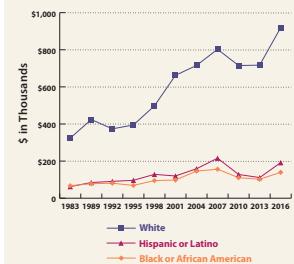


Saint Juan Diego
Art by Julie Lonneman

The story of Juan Diego takes place in 16th century Mexico about 10 years after the Spanish conquest. While he was on his way to religious instruction he saw Our Lady who told him, "I am your ever-loving mother who has come forth to show you love, compassion, help and defense. I want you to build me a little house here."

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Widening Average Family Wealth Gap by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Federal Reserve Board- Survey of consumer finances, federalreserve.gov

SESSION 3

To Love Goodness

THEME: We consider with open hearts the experience of being white in America and the privileges that come with it; and the responsibility to work to end the injustice in our systems of education, housing, incarceration and employment.

Opening Prayer

(15 minutes)

Setting: Put on the ritual table a cloth and a candle.
Optional: begin with a song, e.g., *All are Welcome* by Marty Haugen

Reader: Most people would not consider themselves to be racist. A person might admit to being prejudiced but certainly not racist. As Christians, we know it is our duty to love others. St. Paul reminds us that we live by the Spirit, and the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23).

We must be honest with ourselves. Each of us should examine our conscience and ask if these fruits are really present in our attitudes about race. Or, rather, do our attitudes reflect mistrust, impatience, anger, distress, discomfort, or rancor? [30]

- What new insights on racism did the reflections on white privilege and white fragility give me?
- Where do I see privilege related to race in my life? In my community? In our society?
- What will I/we do to lessen and end white privilege?

Direction: Invite participants to form small groups.

Large Group Discussion

(10 minutes)

Leader: Let's take a few moments to reflect on our small group discussion: How am I feeling after our discussion; what am I being called to?

Direction: After the quiet, invite the participants to share with the large group: How am I feeling after our discussion; what am I being called to?

Break

(15 minutes)

Sample Pages

Session Titles:

- Invitation to Conversion
- To Do Justice: Live in Right Relationship
- To Love Goodness
- To Walk Humbly with God

Suggestions for Using *Open Wide Our Hearts* Booklets

- Use with a small group
- Begin a meeting using a reading or prayer
- Create an adult education program using the booklets
- Invite high school students to form a group to use the *Open Wide Our Hearts* Study Guide as part of a class project
- Use the booklets for personal education and reflection

Includes

USCCB Pastoral Letter on Racism



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To order by mail fill form below OR [click here](#) to order online. Price – \$5.00 (36 page booklet)

Name: _____

Send me the following *Open Wide Our Hearts* Booklets:

Organization: _____

Quantity _____ @ \$5 = \$ _____

Address: _____

Domestic Postage* \$ _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Total \$ _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

*(1=\$2.50, 2-7=\$4, 8-10=\$6 plus 2\$ for every 5 more)