

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia PA 19106
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www.oldstjoseph.org

January 13, 2019 | The Baptism of the Lord

Open Wide Our Hearts

At their November 2018 General Meeting, the US Catholic bishops approved as a formal statement *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love—A Pastoral Statement Against Racism*. As the words 'enduring call' suggest, this is not the first time the US Bishops have made a formal statement against racism. In 1958, a predecessor body called the National Catholic Welfare Conference spoke out about *Discrimination and Christian Conscience*. In 1968, the US bishops made a formal statement called *On the Race Crisis*, and in 1979 adopted an earlier pastoral letter, *Brothers and Sisters to Us*.

After reading and re-reading *Open Wide Our Hearts*, I made a list of pluses and minuses about this pastoral letter. Let's start with the positives:

First, the US bishops recognize that racism remains a "particularly destructive and persistent form of evil" and that the current state of race relations in the United States does not meet the standard of justice.

Second, *Open Wide Our Hearts* makes clear that "there is no place for racism in the hearts of any person; it is a perversion of the Lord's will for men and women, all of whom were made in God's image and likeness." The document counts racism among high priority 'life issues' that threaten human dignity.



Third, to the Bishops' credit, they try to wrestle with the complexity of the evil of racism. They resist simple definitions, and link conscious and unconscious attitudes with hateful speech and symbols, deliberate acts, unthinking complicity, and unjust social institutions.

But my briefer list of negatives weighs heavily in my final evaluation of *Open Wide Our Hearts*. To explain why, I must first be clear about the perspective I bring to the pastoral letter: I am white. I have enjoyed the advantages of well-funded public and higher education. My family has had access to economic mobility through the wealth that home ownership creates, and we've also enjoyed the safety and security that our homes and neighborhoods have afforded us. I have benefited

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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon 14	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 15	12:05 PM	<i>Louis May (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon 12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
Wed 16	12:05 PM	<i>Wm Henry & Rose Mary Eells & Family</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:30 PM	Centering Prayer
Thurs 17	12:05 PM	<i>Debra & Anita Brook (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon 7:00 PM	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin) Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri 18	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	5:30 PM	YAC Happy Hour (Off-Site)
Sat 19	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
Sun 20	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		<i>2nd Collection: Catholic Relief Services</i> Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin) Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) YAC Post-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

In your prayers,
please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters
and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Adeline Acerno, Teresa Aponte, Louis Balestrucci, Rick Bravo, Debbie Brooks, Christopher Browne, Tony Corvaia, Melissa Counsellor, Charlotte Croce, Ann Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Pat Farris, Lenny Felixson, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, Edward Jacobs, Marie Jacobs, Mary Jacobs, Janet Jeitner, Tamae Kan, Catherine Keddie, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, James McBride, Jerry McBride, Christine Mari-Mazzola, Allen May, Angelo Miczza, D. Minter, Catherine O'Brien, Bernie Paquett, Joanna Pearl, Lucy Pearl, Betty Farris Pfeiffer, Colleen Raymond, Kim Reed, Ursula Reed, Joan Russo, Steve Saunders, Barbara Schmidt, Mida Skalamera, Sara Smith, Janet Street, Ed Tomezsko, Arlene Tomlin, Thomas Turnbull, Patricia Yusko, Mickey Zippo.

Bringing Communion to the Homebound

When people are confined to home, they can remain connected to our shared worship by receiving Communion at home. If you, a family member, friend or neighbor (with their approval of course), would like to receive Communion at home, contact the Parish Rectory to arrange for a parish Eucharistic Minister to visit.

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from all the privileges of white, middle class America.

As I read this pastoral letter, it seems addressed to me; it speaks my language and I—and people like me—am its intended audience, the chosen conversation partner of the US bishops. And that is my first disappointment with *Open Wide Our Hearts*. This reads like a white document for white people, and as such, it is unlikely to ever advance the “right relationship with God, with one another, and with the rest of God’s creation” that it calls the original meaning of justice.

The committee of bishops who shepherded this letter to publication is a diverse one, but curiously muted in *Open Wide Our Hearts* are the voices of people who are not like me. There are no firsthand accounts or historical and statistical descriptions of the experiences of growing up and living and worshipping as African American, Asian American, Hispanic or Native American Catholics. Without the voices of the people who experience racism participating in—and directing—the conversation about it, privileged readers like me miss real opportunities for understanding, for empathy and for solidarity.

But there’s a more worrisome problem in the final ‘call to action’ section of *Open Wide Our Hearts*. This part of the pastoral letter begins well, with a straightforward acknowledgement of the US Catholic Church’s sins of racism, both in what it has done and what it has failed to do.

But after that, *Open Wide Our Hearts* falls short of the standard that the US Bishops held

themselves and the US Catholic community to in their previous pastoral letters *To Teach as Jesus Did* (1972) and *Economic Justice for All* (1988): “Since the Christian vocation is a call to transform oneself and society with God’s help, the educational efforts of the Church must encompass the twin purpose of personal sanctification and social reform in the light of Christian values.” Interior conversion and external action are both required, but in *Open Wide our Hearts*, only the former commands the bishops’ attention.

To ask, as does this pastoral letter, for education, openness to encounter, prayer and imitation of holy example is to stop short at interior conversion. None of these demand any real, substantive external action. I can pray, encounter, and imitate without my conversion of heart yielding any fruit of social change. Moreover, to focus on the conversion of the privileged is to once again ignore what’s been missing all along: the agency of *all* people created in the image of and destined for communion with God. Would that the call not be to ‘open wide my heart’ but to open wide my eyes and stop acting like the world revolved around me! Would that the call were to open wide the doors and let everyone in, to open wide the checkbook and fully fund schools and social services, and to open wide the circle, so that the people whose lives are at stake are the ones making the decisions that affect them. Then, perhaps, there will be justice—not we the privileged acting on behalf of you the other, but just us, together creating a beloved community.

BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

The full text of Open Wide Our Hearts is available at [usccb.org>Issues and Action>Racism](https://usccb.org/issues-and-action/racism). The same webpage contains links to other USCCB statements, educational resources and background reading.

Front page photo by Renee Fisher on Unsplash.

Announcements

Catholic Relief Services Collection

The annual Catholic Relief Services second collection will be taken up the weekend of **January 19-20** (and through online giving until February 10). In addition to CRS's international relief and development work, the collection funds the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services for refugee resettlement, the advocacy work of its Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, the ministry of its Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, the services of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., and the Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief. Your generosity is a way of responding to 'Jesus in disguise' in the faces of the poor. Many thanks for your contribution!

Online Giving

The following collections are now active on the online giving website:

Christmas Collection, through January 13

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, through January 13

Catholic Relief Services, through February 10.

Play On!

If you missed him at Christmas time, you've got a few more chances to hear OSJ music director Mark Bani on Philadelphia's Wanamaker Organ at 13th and Market Streets. Mark will be playing **January 14 at 5:30 PM, January 18 at 12 Noon, January 21 at 5:30 PM, January 25 at 12 Noon, and January 28 at 5:30 PM.**

Family Activity Afternoon

Parents and grandparents, mark your children's calendars for **January 26, 3:30-5:15 PM**. PREP welcomes all children for a shared afternoon of fun, faith-based activities. The ending time allows families to attend 5:30 PM Mass together.

Charis Retreat for Young Adults

Looking for a Catholic retreat this spring in the Philadelphia area? Charis Ministries is a retreat ministry in the Jesuit tradition for people in their 20s and 30s. This year, Charis and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Haverford, PA are coming together to host the *What's Next?* retreat at the St. Raphaela Center **March 1-3**. The retreat will focus on the variety of life transitions experienced by retreatants in young adulthood. Registration is open online under special events at straphaelacenter.org. If you have any questions, please email the Charis Ministries Philadelphia Retreat Team at ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org.

Discernment Retreat

Single young women ages 18-35 are invited to experience a weekend retreat at the IHM Motherhouse with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters and novices **January 18-20**. Come for a weekend of prayer, spiritual conferences, meals, and recreation with the sisters. Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic adoration will also be part of the weekend retreat. For more information, contact 610-889-1553 or ihmvoc@gmail.com.

Cardinal Foley Lecture January 28

The annual Cardinal Foley Lecture at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on **January 28, 7:00 PM** will feature Kim Daniels speaking on *From Anger to Renewal: Communication and the Crisis in the Church*. Ms. Daniels is the associate director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. In 2016, she was appointed to the Vatican Dicastery for Communications by Pope Francis. To register for this free event, visit www.scs.edu/cardinal-foley-lecture or call Sharon Presta at 610-785-6287.

Announcements

Old St. Joseph's Prayer List

In the spirit of new year's resolutions, we resolve to regularly update the bulletin's prayer list. To that end, please let us know if you would like a name to remain on the current list by **the end of today, January 13**. As always, you may continue to add names at any time by emailing office@oldstjoseph.org, calling 215-923-1733 or leaving a message in the parish office. Thank you!

Centering Prayer

The centering prayer group will meet on **Wednesday, January 16, 6:30-8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the rectory. The meeting will include discussion of centering prayer followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome to join us. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com.

Time to Update!

Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers: please remember to update your online profile by **January 15** for the February 1-March 31 ministry schedule. New volunteers are always welcome to these ministries. Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided! Sign up on the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org.

YAC January Happy Hour

All young adults are invited to our January Happy Hour on **Friday, January 18**, starting at **5:30 PM**. Please email osjyac@gmail.com, check out our e-newsletter or follow our Facebook page at [oldsaintjoesya](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaintjoesya) for more details, including location. Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar for January 21

On **Monday, January 21 at 7:30 PM**, OSJ will join St. Joseph's Prep in hosting discussion on *Human Rights and Civil Rights: Where God and Faith Make a Difference*. Guest speakers will be Sean Carroll SJ, executive director of the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales AZ and Alana Lee, assistant principal of Philadelphia's Gesu School. All are welcome to join us in the church for conversation; refreshments will follow in Barbelin Hall.

The Divine Milieu Discussion

On **Sunday, February 10 and Sunday February 24 at 1:00 PM**, SJU professor and OSJ parishioner Gerard Jacobitz will lead a discussion of Teilhard de Chardin's *The Divine Milieu*. Chardin was a Jesuit and paleontologist best known for the spiritual writings published after his death in 1955. Though written in 1929, Chardin's *The Divine Milieu* remains both the centerpiece of his writings and a 21st century spiritual path cited by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*. Although brief, *The Divine Milieu* is worth lingering over, so you may wish to begin reading now to prepare for February's discussion in Barbelin Hall.

YAC Post-Mass Reflection

Young adults are invited to join our community for an additional reflection after the 6:30 PM Mass on **Sunday, January 20**. Please meet in the courtyard after Mass. The reflection will consist of an opening prayer, re-reading of the Scriptures of the day, a short bit of quiet prayer and an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Materials will be provided, and we will end by **8:30 PM**.

INFORMATION

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times

Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:30 PM

Medical Emergency

In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements

Old St. Joseph's is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

Registration

Persons who want to register as parishioners should complete a parish registration form and return it to the rectory office by mail or in person. Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday through Saturday: 11:30 AM to noon or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Persons wanting to arrange a baptism should call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

The Sacrament of Anointing

The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is administered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Persons wanting to be married in the parish should call Fr. O'Donnell at the parish office at least nine months before the desired date.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Unbaptized adults who are considering baptism into the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who have received no other sacraments and who want to be confirmed and to receive First Eucharist, and baptized non-Catholics who are considering full communion in the Catholic Church should call Fr. O'Donnell at the parish office.

Mass of Christian Burial

The funeral director should call the parish office.

Pastor

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Edward O'Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence

Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate

BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager

Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music

Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

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Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director

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Parish Pastoral Council

Rana McNamara and Richard Le, co-chairs
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council

Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

Adult Education

Rita O'Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo
(adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

Eldership

Joan Slavin (joanslavin@aol.com)

Parish Life

Joe Casey (joetcasey@aol.com)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

John Bitterman (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship

Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community

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Altar Servers

Maria Ramirez (mathra71@yahoo.com)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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Homebound Ministry

Neal Hébert (neal9536@gmail.com)

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Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (pmcon@comcast.net)