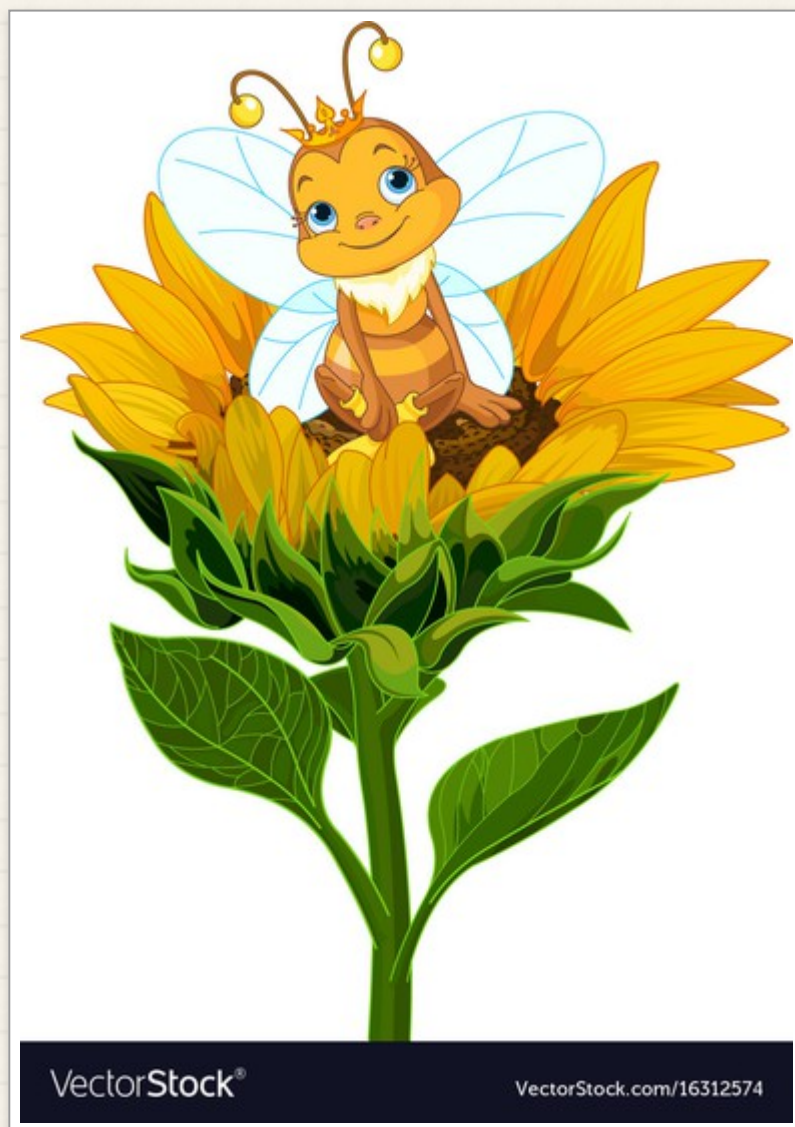


Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry

June 2020



From the desk of Sr. Kathy...

Dear Friends:

This past month has been most challenging for our American society; and, one which I think we will never forget. Not only were we dealing with our society reopening from the terrible

pandemic, but for those of us alive in the 1960's, we were once again faced with the terrible injustice of racism and the George Floyd murder. It felt unbearable to watch the nightly news and to wonder if we have made any progress towards reconciliation with our people of color. What was most hopeful, though, for me, was to bring the issue before Jesus in my prayer and beg him for a more just society. Our faith is one based on hope, and I must believe that one day humans will strive to act in a more just manner.

This Buzz News addresses the Holy Father's Prayer Network and some goals that the Vatican is implementing in order to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si, Our Common Home*. I am hoping that each of us will consider what we can do to make our world more sustainable for future generations.

Next, we review how our American bishops are responding to the issue of racism. We have listed their pastoral letter, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, for your thoughtful reflection, as well as included some intercessions for mass or prayer services on the topic.

Locally, we've included some information from our Office of Ecumenical and Religious Affairs. This information first appeared on our diocesan Facebook page.

Our factoid section will include some information about American Parish Life from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, CARA. You may find some of their research interesting.

May we each continue to pray for our nation, that individuals who have been elected for public service may consider the needs of the most vulnerable first and that each of us do what we can to make our world better.

Peace and all good,

Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF



Join Our Facebook Group

The Office of Spirituality has a new group on Facebook in which to share timely information and news of interest.

To request to join, click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/309585820032820>



Global News

A couple of times during the Christmas season recently, I distributed a leaflet from the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network to all chancery staff. I received the same from a pastoral associate in Pittsburgh many years ago, and I found it helpful to unite my prayer with the monthly prayer intentions of the Holy Father. The prayer intention for June, 2020 is: **Compassion for the world amidst Covid-19 pandemic.** Pope Francis on Thursday, June 4, 2020 released a video message accompanying his prayer intention for June, which this month is that "all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus."

The Sacred Heart of Jesus was always an enigma for me, as my parents had a large picture of it in our home when growing up. During various stages of my life, the picture came to mean different things. As a Franciscan, I now understand that picture with Jesus' large red heart as meaning total and unconditional **L O V E**. During this time, unlike any other we have experienced, I pray we will go to Jesus' Sacred Heart and ask him to pour out his merciful love on those most in need....that they, too, will be able to endure what Jesus endured, as each unites their suffering to Jesus' Sacred Heart.

One can find the video here: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-06/pope-francis-prayer-intention-june-2020-compassion.html>



Pope's prayer intention for June: ...

www.vaticannews.va

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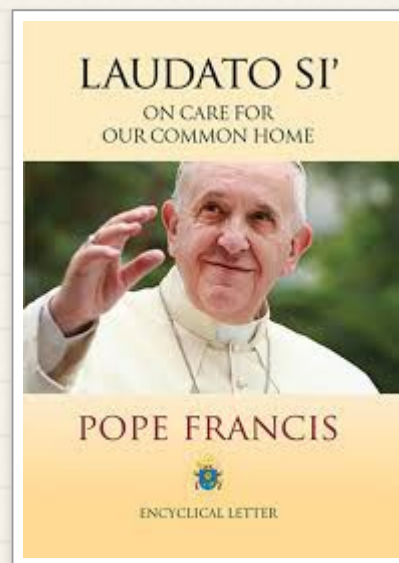
Celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of *Laudato Si, Our Common Home*

The year 2020, represents the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si, Our Common Home*. The Vatican has published seven goals for us to consider regarding how we can implement this papal document into our lives. Parents, schools and various educational institutions will be highlighting how we can begin to live in a way that makes our sacred home sustainable.

The goals include: 1) Work through great carbon neutrality by greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing use of fossil fuels; 2) Respond to needs of poor and protect those most vulnerable from conception to death, especially indigenous peoples, migrants, and children at risk of trafficking and slavery; 3) Ecological economics: sustainable production, fair trade, ethical consumption and investment; 4) Adoption of a simple lifestyle: reduce use of energy and resources; 5) Ecological education: redesign curricula around integral ecology; 6) Ecological spirituality: recover a religious vision of God's creation; and, 7) Emphasis on community involvement and participatory action around creation.

Many believe that this encyclical was the pope's "watershed" on the environment and human ecology. May we each do our part in making our world more sustainable for future generations.

Source: NCR May 29-June 11, 2020



US Bishops Statement on Racism

Our American bishops shared eighteen months ago in their most recent pastoral letter against racism, [Open Wide Our Hearts](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf), (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>) that for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. "As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue."

May we all join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda (originally from the Diocese of Pittsburgh) and now of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

May we all challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them, listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity, and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.

Let us remember to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for a supernatural desire to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause. We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of Truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society.

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

—CCC, no. 2558, citing St. Therese of Lisieux,
Manuscrits Autobiographiques, C 25rr

Prayers for Racism

For Prayers of the Faithful on Racism, go to:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/racism-prayers-of-the-faithful.cfm>

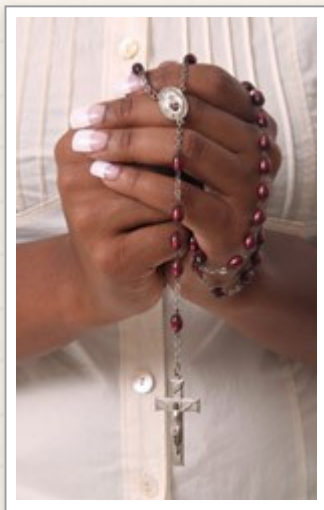


Photo courtesy of usccb.org

Warner Brothers' Just Mercy Streaming for Free During the Month of June

'Just Mercy,' is a film based on the true story of Walter McMillian, who with the help of civil rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. Warner Brothers, who made the movie available for free during the month of June, said it believes "in the power of story," and wants citizens to view the film as part of the ongoing national dialogue surrounding race relations and "the systemic racism that plagues our society. The New York Times Post says, "The studio has made the film very easy to watch. It's available for free via most services where you would normally pay to rent a film: YouTube, iTunes, Amazon Prime Video, and Google Play.

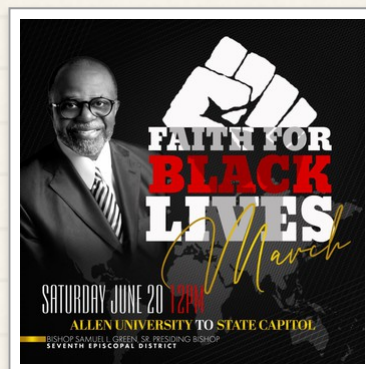


OFFICIAL TRAILER HD

Local News

Ecumenical Peace Walk

Bishop Robert Guglielmone, along with Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, encourages people of all faiths to participate in an ecumenical Peace Walk on Saturday, June 20, in conjunction with AME's Juneteenth celebrations. All people interested in attending are asked to meet at 11 a.m. at Allen University, 1530 Harden Street, in Columbia. The group will walk together to the Statehouse.



It's Here

June 1 was the date set by History Press for the release of Sister Pamela Smith's new book, "*History of the Diocese of Charleston: State of Grace*. Sister Pam offers a look at what it took

to get the book written:

There were visits to museums and archives—like the Santa Elena Center in Beaufort showing the history of the 16th century Catholic settlement at what is now Parris Island, the diocesan archives, the Heritage Room and archives of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy (founded 1829 in Charleston), and the Museum of African American History at the Smithsonian. There were visits to parishes, schools, ecumenical and interfaith gatherings, and outreach centers, some of them in quite rural areas. And then there was the reading. The bookshelf shows my South Carolina collection.

Publishers say that it is good to give people an idea of where and how you write. I couldn't show all the bags of notes and notebooks, but I did take a photo of my stand-up desk. (Been writing standing up for 20 years.) We don't always know what our book covers will look like, but History Press sent a draft of the front and back covers, with photos from the diocesan archives and the Catholic Miscellany (for which I've been writing a biweekly column since 2015). There is also a peek at the Table of Contents.

This has been a fascinating diocesan Bicentennial project. The Diocese of Charleston is now the whole state, and that's the focus, but the book also takes a look at what it once was—Georgia, SC, North Carolina, and, briefly, Haiti and the Bahamas.



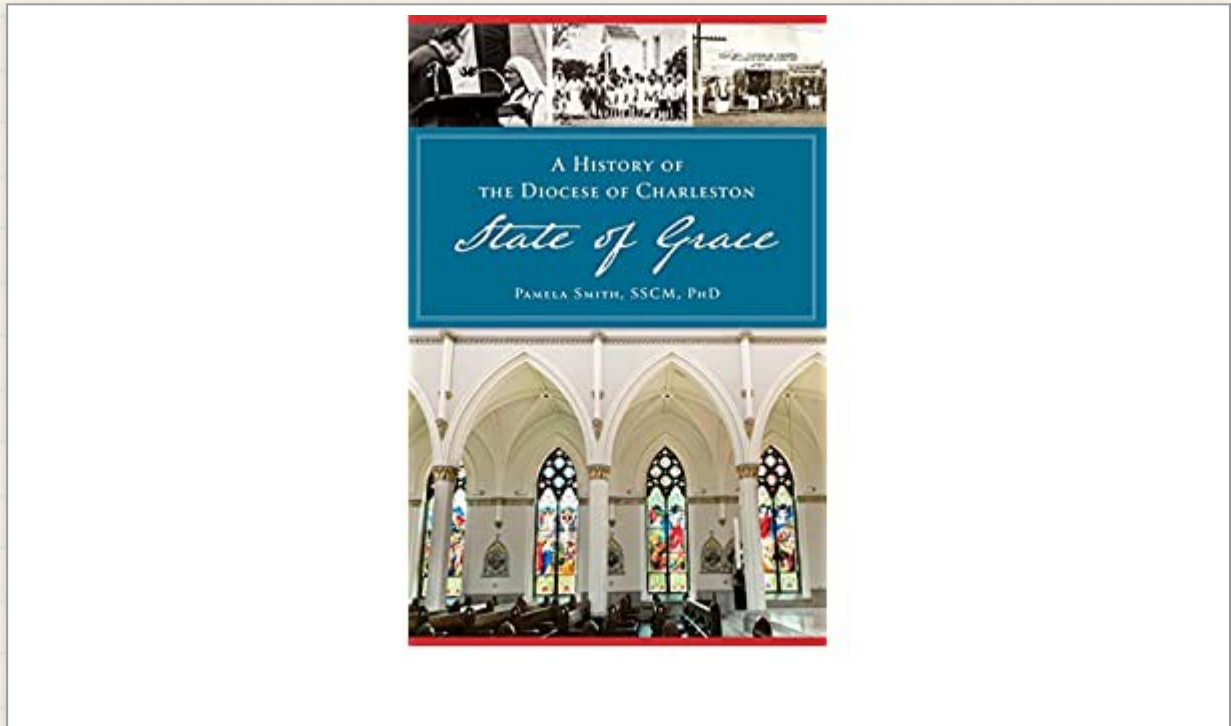
Photo courtesy of Sr. Pamela Smith, SSCM

Book of the Month

A History of the Diocese of Charleston: State of Grace

In 1820, the Catholic Diocese of Charleston was established, and Bishop John England arrived from Ireland. His new diocese encompassed North and South Carolina, Georgia and, for a time, Haiti. From 1859 to 1885, when Patrick Lynch and Henry Northrop were bishops of

Charleston, the diocese included the Bahama Islands. However, the history of Catholics in the diocese—which now covers all of South Carolina—began much earlier. The arrival of Spanish settlers and missionary priests dated back more than 150 years before there was a diocese on American soil. Sister Pam Smith charts the history of the diocese from the first words of prayer uttered on Santa Elena in the sixteenth century through the interfaith singing of a reformed slaveholder's hymn at a painful funeral in the twenty-first century.



Factoid of the Month

American Parishes by the Numbers

From the 2017 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) report:

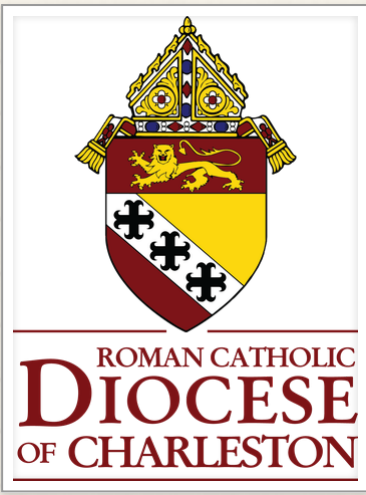
Where Catholics Were (1950) Where Catholics Went (2017)

Northeast: 46% Northeast: 24%

Midwest: 30% Midwest: 19%

South: 12% South: 32%

West: 12% West: 26%



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