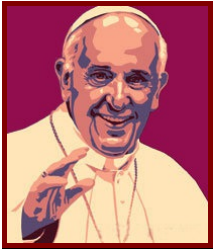




Women's History Month

Pope Thanks General Minister for Capuchin Witness



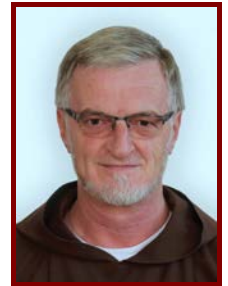
Following is the text of a letter from Pope Francis to Roberto Genuin, General Minister: *Returning from the journey to the United Arab Emirates, I wish to write to you with my thanks for the work you and your friars carried out for the eighth centenary of the meeting of St. Francis with the Sultan of Egypt in 1219. Your work brought forth significant fruit on the occasion of the recent visit to the Arabian Peninsula. Like St. Francis himself was inspired centuries ago to go even to the Muslim believers, so I would ask the friars to persevere assiduously in their presences and service for the sake of all the faithful, wherever they may be.*

Aware that the work of the friars is rooted in the bonds of friendship that your founder established with the Islamic communities, I give thanks for the special witness that was offered by the Capuchins.

I would also ask you to continue on this path of mutual esteem, free from any idea of the proselytism that makes strangers out of those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord.

"Renewing my gratitude once again for the work of the friars and for your witness to the love of God for every man and every woman, I happily give you the apostolic blessing as a pledge of grace and peace.

~ Francis



Roberto Genuin

The Bishops' Letter Fails to Recognize That Racism Is a White Problem



Daniel Horan, OFM

In an article for *The National Catholic Reporter*, Franciscan Daniel Horan criticized the U.S. bishops' recently published document on racism ("Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism"). Following are excerpts from his article.



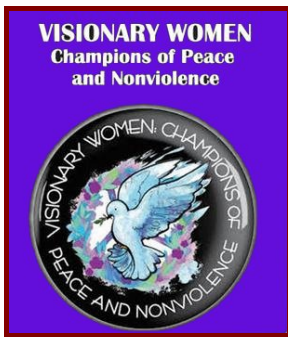
"Like so many other people, I had been eagerly awaiting the new text. The rise in explicit racist behavior and hate crimes since the election of President Donald Trump, the overt support of his administration's policies by white supremacists and extremist groups, the anti-migrant rhetoric associated with the building of a southern border wall, and the unabashed refusal to condemn Nazi and white supremacist groups after the 2017 incidents in Charlottesville have only heightened the sense of urgency that the American bishops needed to exercise their teaching authority on this topic."

“While the new document does attempt to expand the horizon of those who are burdened, oppressed or otherwise harmed by racism with three short sections dedicated to Native American, African American and Hispanic experiences, the terms selected and language used here raise some serious questions. In the section on Native Americans, for instance, European colonizers are only referred to as “explorers, then pioneers” and later as “white European immigrants and pioneers.” These descriptions recast colonizers as neutral or even heroic figures without sufficient attention to the imperial and ecclesial motivations, practices or legacies once these whites arrived across the Atlantic.”

“The specter that haunts the new document is the unacknowledged reality that racism is a white problem and that while systemic racism does affect everybody, it benefits white folk to the disadvantage of people of color. Most people know that overt racial oppression and discrete racist acts are wrong. Another pastoral document to reiterate this point is not needed. Instead, what is needed — *but wasn't delivered* — is a strong statement with a clear message exhorting those in the position of social and cultural dominance that they must change if there is any hope of a different future.”

Daniel P. Horan is a Franciscan friar, theologian, and author. He is currently assistant professor of systematic theology and spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and a columnist for NCR. You can read his entire article here: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/faith-seeking-understanding/bishops-letter-fails-recognize-racism-white-problem>

March is Women's History Month



The theme for 2019 is “Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence.” This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society. These honorees embraced the fact that the means determine the ends and so developed nonviolent methods to ensure just and peaceful results.

For generations, women have resolved conflicts in their homes, schools, and communities. They have rejected violence as counterproductive and stressed the need to restore respect, establish justice, and reduce the causes of conflict as the surest way to peace. From legal defense and public education to direct action and civil disobedience, women have expanded the American tradition of using inclusive, democratic and active means to reduce violence, achieve peace, and promote the common good.

From women's rights and racial justice to disarmament and gun control, the drive for nonviolent change has been championed by visionary women. These women consciously built supportive, nonviolent alternatives and loving communities as well as advocating change. They have given voice to the unrepresented and hope to victims of violence and those who dream of a peaceful world.

One of this year's honorees is Alice Zachman, SSND. Zachman has dedicated her life to ending war and violence, from advocating an end to the Vietnam War to supporting the United Farm Workers. She founded the Guatemala Human Rights Commission USA in 1982 and served as director for 20 years, fearlessly supporting Guatemalan survivors of torture and abuse, as well as working to end U.S. military assistance to Guatemala. Zachmann is a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province.



Alice Zachman, SSND



We Saw You at the Mardi Gras Party in Mt. Calvary



A Mardi Gras Tradition

King Cake is no ordinary cake. The circular pastry shines with stripes of sugared New Orleans Carnival colors: purple for justice, gold for power and green for faith.

It's stuffed with fruit and pecans — and a plastic baby that brings luck to the finder (along with the responsibility of providing the next year's cake). Our affiliate, Esther Boehnlein, baked this year's cake.

Have a Blessed Lent!



St. Joseph Province Hosts NAPCC in Scottsdale AZ



Front L-R: Michael Greco (SMP), Gerard O'Dempsey (Assumption), Truyen Nguyen (SJP, support staff), Patrick Castro (OLSS), Bob Abbatiello (SMP), Tom Betz (SAP), Rudolph Pieretti (SSFP, recording secretary); Back L-R: Mick Joyce (SAP), Christopher Popravak (SCP), Steve Kropp (SJP), Louis Cinq-Mars (SHP), Michael Sullivan (SJP), Celestino Arias (General Council), Joe Yakimovich (SMP, executive secretary), Robert Williams (SSFP), Brenton Ertel (SJP, support staff), Henry Alva (MMGSP), Joseph Diederich (OLAP)

May there always be work
for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold
a coin or two.
May the sun always shine
on your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain
to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend
always be near you.
May God fill your heart with
gladness to cheer you.

- An Irish Blessing

**St. Joseph's Day - 19 March
Patronal Feast Day**

MARCH	
16	Kent Bauer (B)
17	♣ Patrick (F)
19	Joseph, Patronal Feast
19	Brenton Ertel (B)
20	Spring Equinox, Ostara
21	Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination Purim
22	Biju Kochuniravat (B)
25	Ashwin Kumar (B)
29	Vito Martinez (B) Michael Dorn (B)