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open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

Logo from 2018 pastoral letter on racism (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)

by NCR Staff

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In November at their annual fall meeting, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released a pastoral letter against racism. Called "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," the letter is the first of its kind since 1979.

On the show today:

- Fr. Joseph Brown, a Jesuit priest and professor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in the Department of Africana Studies

Background reading:

- Catholic News Service reported on the pastoral letter before it was released, [quoting the document](#): "Despite many promising strides made in our country, the ugly cancer of racism still infects our nation." The U.S. bishops

[overwhelmingly approved](#) the pastoral letter Nov. 14 during their fall general meeting in Baltimore. The document passed 241-3 with one abstention.

- [Read the bishops' pastoral letter](#) "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism."
- In 2015, Life & Style in Southern Illinois profiled Brown in "Joseph Brown: SIU professor, priest, social activist, artist." Read more about him [here](#).

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