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Date: Wed, May 17, 2023, 2:06 PM  
Subject: Open Wide Our Hearts 5/17/23  
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| |  | | --- | | [Parish Social Ministry Updates](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/9okd0dd) | | |  | | --- | | May 17th, 2023 | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   **Learn About White Replacement Theory**  *Adapted from*[The ‘Great Replacement’ Theory: From Conspiracy to Mainstream Violence](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/phld0dd)*by Dominique Stewart*  On May 14, 2022, an 18-year-old white gunman drove more than three hours from his home to a grocery store in a predominately Black community in Buffalo, New York. He wore tactical gear, a helmet, and a camera to livestream his movements. He was heavily armed, brandishing an assault weapon with the N-word spelled out on the barrel and the number "14" written in white paint. He would open fire in the store, killing ten people and injuring three. Eleven of his 13 victims were Black. It was a racist act of terrorism carried out by a white supremacist motivated by a far-right conspiracy theory that resulted in racial violence and murder.  The "Great Replacement," or "white replacement theory," is a conspiracy theory that claims there is an effort to replace white people in the U.S. with non-white immigrants in a move to undermine the "political power and culture of white people living in Western countries" ([National Immigration Forum](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/59ld0dd)).  The theory asserts that non-white immigration is not only a threat to "white America" but is a "life-or-death scenario" if left unchecked. The use of polarizing terms like "invasion" or "conquers" while talking about immigration, claims of voter replacement or fraud, and antisemitic ideas that Jewish elites are behind these efforts are used by white supremacists and anti-immigrant groups. It's also been embraced by media figures and politicians, who have taken the extremist ideology mainstream...  One in three U.S. adults believes that a group of people is trying to replace native-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains. 29% are concerned that an increase in immigration leads to native-born Americans losing economic, political, and cultural influence ([AP-NORC](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/l2md0dd)).  The origins of the "great replacement" theory date back to the 1900s with ties to French nationalism books but are widely credited back to two writers:   * In 1973, Jean Raspail wrote of the collapse of France and other white, Western civilizations due to mass immigration from Latin America, Asia, and Africa in "The Camp of the Saints.” The book influenced French writer Renaud Camus and later gained the praise of Trump adviser Stephen Miller, Steve Bannon, and Iowa Representative Steve King ([The New York Times](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/1und0dd)). * In 2011, writer Camus wrote, "Le Grand Remplacement," which states that native, white Europeans are being "reverse-colonized by Black and Brown immigrants, who are flooding the Continent in what amounts to an extinction-level event" ([The New Yorker](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/hnod0dd)). Camus has been credited for popularizing the "Great Replacement" theory. The white supremacist slogan, "you will not replace us, Jews will not replace us," that was chanted at the 2017 Unite the Right rallies in Charlottesville, Virginia, is a reference to Camus' book.   But the anti-immigrant rhetoric is not exclusive to migrants, having been used globally in attacks against other non-immigrant racial, ethnic and/or religious groups.  The Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh; the El Paso shooting at a Walmart of Latino shoppers; the Charleston shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand were linked back to this ideology. The attackers each shared similar verbiage in their manifestos as the Buffalo shooter ([New Yorker](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/xfpd0dd)).  The number "14" that was written on the Buffalo shooter's rifle is assumed to be a reference to the "14 words," a white supremacist slogan that reads, "we must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children" ([Washington Post](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/d8pd0dd)). This phrase mirrors the Jim Crow era rhetoric that justified lynching Black men, who were typically wrongfully accused, to protect white women.  Racist sentiments shared by white supremacists globally view the mere existence of people of color as a threat to their livelihood. Phrases like "diversity = white genocide," and seemingly innocuous words like "invasion" and "replace" stoke fear and empower racist actions in the hopes of white preservation. But time and time again, these conspiracy theories ignore the hold that whiteness and white hierarchy have throughout the U.S. and globally. And the deaths of those in Buffalo are examples of that reality. | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   **Tell Our Legislators to Enact These Reforms**  Shared from James Giles - [Buffalo Peacemakers](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/t0qd0dd)  One year ago last week, my community was traumatized in an instant when a white supremacist killed 10 people and wounded three others with an assault weapon at the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, NY. This one year mark comes on the heels of yet another tragic mass shooting last week in Allen, Texas, where an extremist used an assault weapon to kill 8 people at an outlet mall.  Grocery shopping and going to the mall should not cost you your life. That's why I remain dedicated to doing my part in ending our gun violence crisis by providing violence intervention and prevention services to young people in my city through the Buffalo Peacemakers program.  **Community violence intervention programs are shown to reduce gunshot injuries and deaths in neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence—but we need support from our lawmakers to keep doing this critical work.** [Take a minute to urge New York lawmakers to support these vital programs.](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/9srd0dd)  Right now, New York lawmakers could pass several bills that would support gun violence survivors and establish consistent funding for community violence intervention programs across the state. [**Send a message to your state legislators urging them to support these bills.**](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/plsd0dd)  We must continue to honor the victims of the Tops mass shooting—and all the lives taken by gun violence every day—by taking action and demanding action from our lawmakers. With your help, I know we can get even closer to a future free of gun violence.  Thank you for being a part of this movement.  Pastor James Giles President and Founder Buffalo Peacemakers | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Acting to End Racism in America**  **Monday May 22nd 7:00pm**  **Pittsford Community Library 24 State Street Pittsford, NY 14534**  Two local authors discuss their books on racism in America and what can be done to help end it. Hear from John Strazzabosco, author of Ninety Feet Under: What Poverty Does to People (and former Diocesan Social Ministry Gathering Presenter) and Bill Wynne, author of Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist. | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   **Walk with other Catholics as we learn, pray, and take action for environmental justice.**  In his encyclical Laudato Si’, Pope Francis invites all people to act on behalf of creation. This call to action is grounded in the principle of integral ecology—the idea that environmental, social, political, and economic systems are interwoven—and sustained by a sense of wonder before the interconnected nature of all life. The environmental justice movement similarly asks us to view the world as interconnected and prophetically calls us to change the systems that create the unjust distribution of environmental hazards.  The Catholic Climate Covenant and the Ignatian Solidarity Network and other partners challenge you to enter into the complex work of understanding the connections between environmental injustices that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), as well as low income communities and respond to the call to work towards a lived vision of a world in which all of God’s creation can flourish.  I have found these reflections quite inspiring, but there is a lot of information to sit with. Therefore, I will be sharing one reflection a week for the upcoming 21 weeks. I hope this gives you a chance to sit with them and let them bring you to a deeper understanding and lead you towards action well beyond Black History Month.  **Week 10: FENCELINE COMMUNITIES & AIR POLLUTION | FOCUS ON PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS**  Port Arthur, TX, exemplifies what it means to be a “fenceline community” or “sacrifice zone“ where the population lives adjacent to hazardous petrochemical and other air polluting facilities. These communities tend to be disproportionately Black, Latino, or impoverished and face elevated rates of respiratory disease, cancer, reproductive disorders, birth defects, learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, eye problems, nosebleeds, nausea, and early death. Elevated rates of COVID-19 have also been documented. As you learn about Port Arthur, TX, think about “fenceline” communities in your county, state, or region.     **— LEARN —**     **Getting Started:**   * **Video:** [**Hilton Kelley: 2011 Goldman Prize winner, USA**](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/5dtd0dd) | 3 min. | Goldman Environmental Prize   **Going Deeper:**   * [**"Breath to the People": Sacred Air and Toxic Pollution”**](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/l6td0dd) | Est. Reading Time: 20 min. | United Church of Christ  *A report prepared for the United Church of Christ on 100 super polluters in populated areas across the U.S.*   **— PRAY —**    [A Prayer for Solidarity and Common Purpose](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/1yud0dd)| Rev. Bill Somplatsky-Jarman     **— ACT —**  **Make it Local:**Look at this [**map**](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/hrvd0dd) where you can locate the 100 industrial facilities that are to blame for more than a third of U.S. toxic air emissions. You can click on the icon to learn more about each facility.   * Research the community that lives adjacent to these facilities and local initiatives to address environmental injustice. How you can accompany and act in solidarity with this work and the local community? | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Scripture of the Week:**  The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.  **- Psalm 24:1** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Quote of the Week**  God is Change— / Seed to tree, / tree to forest; / Rain to river, / river to sea; / Grubs to bees, / bees to swarm. / From one, many; / from many, one; / Forever uniting, growing, dissolving— / forever Changing. / The universe / is God’s self-portrait. **- Octavia E. Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (1993)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Prayer of the Week**  God of change, may we follow your patterns of reshaping, and refining to make this evolving earth whole. | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Clarification**  Events publicized by this newsletter (or other method) reflect action focused on anti-racism and an end to racial violence, and are not organized by the BLM global organization. There are many ways to fight against racism and violence, we encourage you to explore how to do so as a witness to our faith. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Regards, | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Marcus Ebenhoe | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Marcus Ebenhoe Director of Advocacy and Parish Social Ministry | |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Catholic Charities Family & Community Services | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Give people hope and they can do anything.** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A regional agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester | | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Share this email:** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | [Email](https://t.e2ma.net/share/outbound/e/5pa3ol/1iab0o) | [Twitter](https://t.e2ma.net/share/outbound/t/5pa3ol/1iab0o) | [Facebook](https://t.e2ma.net/share/outbound/f/5pa3ol/1iab0o) | [LinkedIn](https://t.e2ma.net/share/outbound/l/5pa3ol/1iab0o) | | | | | [**Manage**](https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1824517/1780091/689996155/890243451/?s=3EtJFJ2FEFX-0gfF54IlO8GLzrRAbn2TAbwMqiGNUz8) your preferences | **[Opt out](https://t.e2ma.net/optout/5pa3ol/1iab0o?s=pfTGB_6FYT7kP-uFn8yRtr7Xma5n0XnSqgMR0G3x6u4" \t "_blank)** using **TrueRemove**™ Got this as a forward? [**Sign up**](https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1824517/1780091.689996155/) to receive our future emails. View this email [**online**](https://t.e2ma.net/message/5pa3ol/1iab0o). | | [79 N. Clinton Avenue Rochester, NY | 14604 US](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#m_-8089636904939507525_m_7126221207903267141_) | | [This email was sent to wewynne1@gmail.com. *To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*](http://wewynne1@gmail.com/) | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [powered by emma](https://t.e2ma.net/click/5pa3ol/1iab0o/xjwd0dd) | | | | |  | |