

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**July 14, 2019**  
**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Deuteronomy 30:10-14 † Colossians 1:15-20 † Luke 10:25-37**



**Reflection by: Sister Alice Uhl, OP**

Jesus is a wonderful storyteller. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a classic story that has drama and unforgettable characters. It is crafted by a master storyteller. Choosing a Samaritan person to be the example of compassion and inclusivity, Jesus is challenging us to look at, in the words of our bishops, the sin of racism. The fact that there was such dislike and hostility between Jews and Samaritans is what gives the use of the Samaritan such force. The Samaritan is the one who can rise above the bigotry and prejudices of centuries and show mercy and compassion for the injured Jew after the Jew's own countrymen pass him by!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a new pastoral letter against racism entitled "Open Wide Our Hearts" (November 2018). Rev. Daniel Horan, OFM of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, in a review of the Pastoral Letter, had the following critical observation:

*"That racism isn't just something from long ago in the South or the 'inner city,' but deeply embedded and woven into the very fabric of all parts of this country...requires that it be addressed everywhere. Although a serious effect of racism has been the internalized oppression experienced by people of color, racism has been and remains a white problem because nothing will change as long as those who benefit from an unjust system remain vinctly ignorant. It is not enough for the American church to decry the sin of racism; we must dare to name the sinner too."*

This Sunday's Gospel with Jesus's challenge, our bishops naming racism as the number one sin of our time and Daniel Horan's sharp analysis, hopefully will move each us with wide open hearts to answer the Gospel's question: "Who is my neighbor?"