

September 3, 2017

**ISSUE: Understanding and Embracing Cultural Diversity**

Where are you a local? No matter where you live, you are working with and establishing relationships with people - people who all have cultures. Culture refers to a group or community which shares common experiences that shape the way its members understand the world. It could include groups that are born into such as race, national origin, gender, class, religion. It can also include a group we join or otherwise become a part of such as a change in economic status or becoming disabled. Our culture influences our views, values, hopes, humor, loyalties, worries and fears. Despite the fact that we may view the world differently, we share so much! We are all human beings who love deeply, who have hopes and dreams, and who have experienced pain and fear.

**TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:**

Matthew 28:19, Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Accordingly, we are encouraged to learn from one another and embrace cultural diversity as a model for unity.

**ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:**

Pray, Learn and Interact

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Office of Multicultural Ministries, [www.archindy.org/multicultural](http://www.archindy.org/multicultural)

September 10, 2017

**ISSUE: Understanding and Embracing Cultural Diversity**

1. The Catholic Church in the U.S. is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the country, and it will become even more diverse in the future.
2. Parishes, schools and colleges, hospitals, charities and other ministries need to adapt and prepare for this growing diversity.
3. In the pews, many of those who are most comfortable with growing diversity are those who immigrated to the United States, though African American Catholics are one of the most likely to say they welcome diversity in the parish and that diversity enriches parish life.
4. Those who are descendants of previous waves of immigration from Europe appear to be the least comfortable with diversity and less willing to engage in parish life beyond attending Mass.

Source: November 2016 Report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, USCCB, [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity).

**TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:**

Psalm 105 Vs. 1- 3 : 7 ó15- Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him sing his deeds. He the Lord is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail. He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations.

On September 25, 2015, Pope Francis said, "In opposing every attempt to create a rigid uniformity, we can and must build unity on the basis of our diversity of languages, cultures and religions, and lift our voices against everything which would stand in the way of such unity."

**ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:**

Pray, Learn and Interact

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Office of Multicultural Ministries, [www.archindy.org/multicultural](http://www.archindy.org/multicultural)

September 17, 2017

**ISSUE: Understanding and Embracing Cultural Diversity**

"Respect and tolerance are liberating acts, whereby the differences of others are recognized as the same as our own and whereby the riches of another culture are taken as the wealth of all."  
*(Irina Bakova, United Nations ESCO)*

"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people." Unknown

**TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:**

Sirach 33, Vs. 1-2- No evil can harm the man who fears the Lord; through trials, again and again he is safe. He who hates the law is without wisdom, and is tossed about like a boat in a storm. The prudent man trusts in the word of the Lord, and the law is dependable for him as a divine oracle.

On June 6, 2015, Pope Francis said, "We need to communicate with each other, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us, and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect. Patience and trust are called for in such dialogue permitting individuals, families and communities to hand on the values of their own culture and welcome the good which comes from others' experiences."

**ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:**

Pray, Learn and Explore Cultural Festivals and Celebrations

French Market, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, September 9, 2017

Fiesta Indianapolis, American Legion Mall, Downtown Indianapolis, September 16, 2017

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Office of Multicultural Ministries, [www.archindy.org/multicultural](http://www.archindy.org/multicultural)

September 24, 2017

**ISSUE: Understanding and Embracing Cultural Diversity**

Cultural diversity adds the flavor to life, the zeal to live and can be an adventure! Just how mundane would it be if we all looked the same, spoke the same, etc. Cultural diversity brings with it a gift for the senses - so many variations of sounds, sights, tastes and smells. Those variations make life both beautiful and meaningful. We all grow when we appreciate diversity and understand the common thread that binds us.

I dream of a "missionary option," that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. (*Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 27*)

**TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:**

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." (*The Joy of the Gospel, Evangelii Gaudium, 3*) These words of Pope Francis, from the opening paragraphs of his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*, are an invitation to you and me, to all of us, and a reminder of our mission as Catholic Christians in the world.

**ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:**

Pray, Learn and Explore Cultural Festivals and Celebrations

Indianapolis Chinese Festival, IUPUI Wood Plaza, September 23, 2017

International Festival, Indiana State Fairgrounds, November 9 - 11, 2017

African Catholic Mass, St. Rita Catholic Church, December 3, 2017

**MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/upload/cd-spring-summer-7-2017-6-08-web.pdf>

