



*Office of Presiding Bishop  
Ecumenical Catholic Communion*

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November 30, 2017

Dear sisters and brothers,

This is the holy season of Advent, celebrating the Light, the eternal Light, slowly but surely coming into the world. Against the darkness of our times, the Light is quite pronounced. At a time when we hear the drums of white supremacy pounding in the US and Europe, The National Council of Churches here in the US is calling for a march on Washington to end racism. This is an opportunity on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (several days after Easter) for us to take a light from the Christ candle and spread it until the lie of superiority is dispelled in every city and town by the Light that is coming into the world.

The poisonous idea that white people are inherently superior to people of color is an evil that has wounded our national experience from the beginning, when the Declaration of Independence referred to native peoples as savages and condoned the continued practice of the colonists to enslave persons of African descent.

There has never been a time in the history of the US when whites have stood together and said, “No, it is not true. We are not superior to persons of color and never have been. We are not better, and we do not inherently deserve a better life.” The civil war and slavery have ended; segregation has been mitigated; there have been some improvements. But there never was a time when that profound threshold I am speaking about was passed where we whites as a group chose to stop thinking of ourselves as superior. Or did I miss it? I don’t think so. There is no holiday commemorating that moment. There is no white national leader who stands out in our mind as leading us to that conclusion and articulating it for us—such that we commemorate his or her life. In fact, we see the opposite, we hear the drums of white supremacy all the louder in recent days. Every drummer knows that the beat of the drum affects the heart rate of those who hear it. And so in American culture, Poland and elsewhere, now there is a kind of drum beat that has an effect on our insides, giving us permission to be out loud about our feelings of superiority over persons whose pigment is different.

Now is a time for letting the Light come more clearly into a dark world. As we prepare for Christmas, circle April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, on your calendar and begin to make plans to stand with thousands of other Americans of all faiths and none against the false and poisonous notion that

so called “whites” are superior in some way to other children of God. There must be a time when we stand together and say no to this lie. It is suffocating the lives of millions of our sisters and brothers. See the Light. Take a light from the Light. Spread the Light. Talk up the Light with family and friends during this holy season.

And may all of us have a blessed Advent.

Your brother,

+Francis