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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary

Date: June 11, 2020

Subject: Memorandum from Bishop Shelton Fabre, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, on *Everyone Belongs*: Children's Book Reflecting on the Reality of Racism

Your Eminences and Excellencies,

I take this opportunity to convey to you the attached memorandum from Most Reverend Shelton Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux and Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. By his correspondence, Bishop Fabre reminds the bishops of the children's book *Everyone Belongs*. This publication represents a collaboration between the Ad Hoc Committee; the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development; and Loyola Press. In this time of renewed awareness of systemic racial injustice, this text offers a needed age-appropriate story that empowers young readers to reflect on the reality of racism in our society and to see it through the lens of faith.

Thank you for your kind attention to this memorandum.



Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

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To: All Bishops

From: Bishop Shelton Fabre
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

Date: June 11, 2020

RE: **Children's book reflecting on the reality of racism**



The USCCB ad hoc Committee Against Racism teamed with the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and Loyola Press, to produce a children's book perfect for the domestic church. Complete with [Free Downloadable Activities](#) geared toward teaching reconciliation and the purpose of confession, the book was first released in December 2019.

Everyone Belongs tells the story of Ray Ikanga, a young boy whose family came to the United States as refugees. As Ray begins making new friends, his excitement is interrupted and the community is shocked when Ray's family receives a hurtful message.

Inspired by [Open Wide Our Hearts](#), the pastoral letter against racism, *Everyone Belongs* empowers young readers to reflect on the reality of racism in our society, to see it through the lens of faith.

The book received international attention in the Spanish Catholic weekly publication [Alfa y Omega](#), which belongs to the Archdiocese of Madrid under Cardinal Carlos Osoro Sierra. The book was also a finalist in the Young Readers Children's Book category in their Excellence in Publishing awards presented by the Association of Catholic Publishers.

For more information and to purchase: <https://store.loyolapress.com/everyone-belongs>