

Rejoice in the Lord

**By Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark**

Unity in Diversity



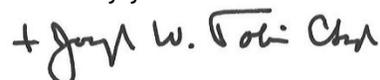
Our Archdiocese is incredibly diverse. In our four counties, we have some of the wealthiest people in the country. We also have some of the poorest. Every weekend, we celebrate Mass in more than two dozen different languages. We are rich in our cultural diversity while we share a universal love for our families, for our faith, and for our freedom and dignity as women and men created in God's image.

I believe our differences should enrich our local church, not divide it. This includes our understanding and practice of Church teaching. Respectful dialog and disagreement are healthy. As long as our mutual goal is to discern the truth and discover God's will for us, it's okay to be on different sides of debates about Church teachings and practices and the controversial political, social, and economic issues facing our local communities, our country, and our world. I welcome and encourage frank discussion about things that matter. Let's all speak the truth in love to each other and, in the process, let's be people committed to building up, not tearing down, the Church we love.

Like Pope Benedict before him, Pope Francis has argued that the Gospel should never be reduced to a set of rules and regulations. We are, first and foremost, witnesses to an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Through him, we are transformed from people enslaved by sin and death to free men and women called to love God and one another and, so, experience the fullness of Gospel joy.

As a Catholic community, we welcome newcomers including people who choose to join our Church through participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and those who come to us from different countries and cultures with diverse customs, devotions, and points of view on Church life. Here in New Jersey, we clearly are an immigrant Church – both because of our history and because of our current reality – and we stand solidly with those who are new to our community because we recognize their dignity and their fundamental human rights as members of God's family.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R." with a small cross above the first name.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Archdiocesan Demographics

TOTAL POPULATION BY DEMOGRAPHIC (2017)



White	1,692,758	56.9%
Hispanic and/or Latino	821,248	27.6%
Black or African American	578,635	19.5%
Asian	324,788	10.9%

SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Population Group	2010	2017	%Change
White	1,662,384	1,692,758	1.8%
Hispanic and/or Latino	683,979	821,248	20.1%
Black or African American	565,502	578,635	2.3%
Asian	267,544	324,788	21.4%
Total Population	2,829,024	2,975,397	5.2%

US Census: 2017 American Community Survey

For more information see: www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/research-planning/population



FORWARD IN *Faith* TOGETHER

Our Road Ahead

Accountability, Transparency, and Communication



Accountability,
Transparency, and
Communication

Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead was introduced this past fall as the new vision for the Archdiocese of Newark after nearly three years of listening to concerns expressed by parishioners, clergy, religious, and the faithful inside and outside the Archdiocese.

This broad pastoral vision outlines the path forward in the wake of past and present challenges. Among its six key pillars is “Accountability, Transparency, and Communication.” This focuses on enhancing and growing these three vital aspects of the vision and why they are critical to shaping the Archdiocese of today and tomorrow.

The vision for the Archdiocese is that of a missionary disciple. A future in which unity and solidarity in Christ exists and must include a candid discussion of challenges. Collaboration will be key to bringing the Archdiocese into the 21st century and beyond.

Last year, the Archdiocese conducted a comprehensive audit of internal and external communications. The audit’s recommendations continue to be applied, and in so doing, the communication channels between the faithful, parishes, and the Chancery continue to expand. A goal is that parishes are better informed and more able to engage with parishioners — especially youths and young adults — in a relevant way.

This process has also enabled a restructuring of the communications team and the Archdiocesan website, social media channels, newspapers, and magazine, and other vehicles to keep stakeholders more connected. More information about archdiocesan Communications and Public Relations is available online at www.rcan.org under the “Offices & Ministries” tab.

In order to enhance transparency and accountability, the Archdiocese publishes its audited financial statements to its website. Grant Thornton, LLP, an independent certified public accounting firm, audits the Archdiocese’s financial statements each year for the purpose of expressing an opinion on our financial statements. This financial information is available online at www.rcan.org under the “About Us” tab.

As its name implies, *Forward in Faith Together* is not merely an accounting of what has already been accomplished. It is a roadmap for the path forward. New platforms to transmit the Gospel are continuously in development and improvements are being made to the ways in which the faithful and others are engaged. To learn more, visit forward.rcan.org. ♦

A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope



Only the Spirit can awaken diversity, plurality, and multiplicity while at the same time, building unity. When we are the ones who try to create diversity and close ourselves up in what makes us different and unique, we bring division. On the other hand, when we are the ones who want to build unity in accordance with our human plans, we end up creating uniformity, standardization.

It's true the Holy Spirit can appear to create disorder in the Church by bringing such different gifts to its members, but when everyone allows themselves to be guided by the Spirit, they learn to treasure variety rather than letting it become a source of conflict (Homily for the Solemnity of Pentecost 2019).

My Prayer for You

Let's pray with Jesus: "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" (Jn 17:20-21). May we celebrate our unity in our diversity. May we be one always as Jesus and His Father are one in the Holy Spirit. †

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

