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of St. Rita of Cascia
Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

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Saint Rita's Feast Day
on May 22nd
Masses and events
all day long.
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PRHWRITERSBLOCK



BARBERSHOP TALK

*What is your
life's blueprint?*



by **Robert L. Woodard**
The Wynnefield Barber



No parade can top a parade where people of every ethnicity and culture are represented. It is beautiful to see when all are in balance. Human beings have a natural desire to come together as one.

Understanding that means we are the world and the children of it. We as people are "One Family" called "Human."

In my barbershop, I have the unique privilege of cutting the hair of numerous human beings, all with many different hair textures. This gives me the opportunity to talk to diverse people from various countries around the world. I guess you can call me the "Crossover Barber." Working on the head and in the head gives me an advantage. I use my skills to work on the head, which gives me the privilege and opportunity to touch the inner thoughts of these diverse people. I have traveled the world from behind the barber's chair. In many of my conversations with patrons, most people realize that people are people regardless of where they come from. Each individual wants to share his culture with others.

One of the greatest ways to understand this most awesome reality is by watching a city win the Super Bowl. We just won our very first Super Bowl. The coach, quarterback and each great player showed us all what it takes to become a real team. Teamwork is the key to controlling our destiny as human beings. We first have to see ourselves as "One Big Human Family" with many wonderful cultures, just waiting to communicate with each other to win the game. That game becomes the game of life. Each person's life is different, yet meaningful. Doug Pederson realized this and his players understood it and respected him as a friend. Nothing on earth can supersede love for your fellow man. The Eagles represented that in their quest to bring home their very first Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Hats off to Pederson for realizing that the whole team is the answer to a sure win in football and in life. When we lost Carson Wentz, Nick Foles stepped up. Foles knew that, with God, all things are possible. He allowed himself to be used as a tool to get the job done. He first had faith in God and then he learned to love his teammates as himself. That simple formula spread to all the other players and they became a family. Once you become a family, it makes you a believer. Everything is possible if we all love our team members as we love ourselves. This great lesson is something the whole world witnessed because just about everyone on the planet watched that game. And, oh what a game!

This gave all of us an opportunity to see not just

the game of football, but the game of life. It gave us a chance to take the game seriously enough to want to win in it. Winning in the game of life starts when we love our neighbors as ourselves. Neighbors don't just live next door. They live around the world. As a team, we human beings should not discriminate against each other. Together we stand, divided we fall. People around the planet watched this formula create the very first Super Bowl win in Philadelphia history. We watched the Eagles win regardless of all the adversities and obstacles that tried to get in their way.

The late, great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the greatest neighbors I know. He spoke at my Junior High School just a couple of months before he was assassinated. He delivered his speech entitled "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?" on October 26, 1967, at the Norris Barrett Junior High School at 16th and Wharton Streets. The school closed in 2011 due to declining enrollment, which leads to the question. Why would the city change the name of a school that reminds all people of this national and international history that happened right here in our City of Brotherly Love?

If I have learned nothing else from the World Champion Philadelphia Eagles, I have learned the importance of teamwork. Each player must have direction in order to perform his job correctly. You have to know where you came from in order to know where you are going. The city allowed the name Norris Barrett Junior High School to be changed to the G. W. Child's School, throwing the history of the school in another direction. Think about it, if the quarterback threw all of his passes in the wrong direction, we would never win any games. I am asking, along with many other fellow citizens of this City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, to give that historical school its original name back. Future Philadelphians of every culture will have the proper direction in knowing our history as a great and growing city that makes sure we give all the people proper direction. Without it, we will lose something very special.

Our **Barbershop Talk Human Family Day Celebration** will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018. We are looking to present the "Good Neighbor of the Year" Award to the Philadelphia Eagles for their outstanding example of what it takes to win a Super Bowl and to win in the game of life as a "Good Neighbor."

The successful future of our Human Family depends on how each of us views Race. Take the "RACE Test" today for a better way at www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org.

PHOTO BY MARIA MERLINO