

Dear Sisters and Partners in Mission,

Our country is currently living through two deep crises that will shape our society for many years to come. The COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide response to the murder of George Floyd by a police officer highlight the divide that has existed within our society for generations. Blessed John Martin Moye, who also lived in turbulent times wrote, "God's Providence governs all things, provides for everything, arranges everything and turns everything to good."

The CDP vision states that "We, the Congregation of Divine Providence, envision a world in which, through Christ, God's way of justice, peace, freedom and love is manifest among all people and all creation. As Sisters of Divine Providence, we commit ourselves to hear the cry of pain and anguish of the poor, immigrants, women and Earth; to be present as neighbor to all in need; to act with courage and collaborate with others to heal what is broken and celebrate what is good in our world." (CDP 2017-2023 Chapter Statement)

Our Church has reiterated this commitment to the inclusivity of the marginalized internationally and nationally. The statements below are responses to our country's current crises.

- **Pope Francis: "No Tolerance for Racism, but Without Violence"**

"I have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd. We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.

Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world."

Source: Vatican News, June 3, 2020

- **A Statement from Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) – May 31, 2020**

"The killing of George Floyd was senseless and brutal, a sin that cries out to heaven for justice. How is it possible that in America, a black man's life can be taken from him while calls for help are not answered, and his killing is recorded as it happens?"

I am praying for George Floyd and his loved ones, and on behalf of my brother bishops, I share the outrage of the black community and those who stand with them in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and across the country. The cruelty and violence he suffered does not reflect on the majority of good men and women in law enforcement, who carry out their duties with honor. We know that. And we trust that civil authorities will investigate his killing carefully and make sure those responsible are held accountable.

We should all understand that the protests we are seeing in our cities reflect the justified frustration and anger of millions of our brothers and sisters who even today experience humiliation, indignity, and

unequal opportunity only because of their race or the color of their skin. It should not be this way in America. Racism has been tolerated for far too long in our way of life.

It is true what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, that riots are the language of the unheard. We should be doing a lot of listening right now. This time, we should not fail to hear what people are saying through their pain. We need to finally root out the racial injustice that still infects too many areas of American society.

But the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us keep our eyes on the prize of true and lasting change. Legitimate protests should not be exploited by persons who have different values and agendas. Burning and looting communities, ruining the livelihoods of our neighbors, does not advance the cause of racial equality and human dignity.

We should not let it be said that George Floyd died for no reason. We should honor the sacrifice of his life by removing racism and hate from our hearts and renewing our commitment to fulfill our nation's sacred promise — to be a beloved community of life, liberty, and equality for all.

Source: USCCB – May 31, 2020

- **A Statement from Archbishop Wilton Gregory**

I find it baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated in a fashion that violates our religious principles, which call us to defend the rights of all people even those with whom we might disagree. Saint Pope John Paul II was an ardent defender of the rights and dignity of human beings. His legacy bears vivid witness to that truth. He certainly would not condone the use of tear gas and other deterrents to silence, scatter or intimidate them for a photo opportunity in front of a place of worship and peace.

Source: Archdiocese of Washington – June 2, 2020

In Divine Providence,



Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP

Superior General