

# CONGREGATION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

---

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

January 7, 2021

Dear Sisters:

Most of us sat in total disbelief as we watched a mob disrupt Congressional proceedings to accept the Electoral College vote for President of the United States. This disruption was encouraged by Donald Trump with his statement: "... We are going to have to fight much harder. And Mike Pence is going to have to come through for us, and if he doesn't that will be a sad day for our country. Because you're sworn to uphold our Constitution... And after this, we're going to walk down to the Capitol, and I'll be there with you, we're going to walk down..."

In response, Father James Martin, SJ, an American Jesuit priest appointed by Pope Francis as consultant to the Vatican's secretariat for Communications states, "Today's violence at the US Capitol, a national disgrace, is the inevitable result of the endless lies about the election spread by President Trump and his supporters. Here we see the result of these lies, the fruit of sin: anger, hatred, discord, despair and violence. This is what sin does, especially sin on such a large scale. 'And by their fruits you will know them' (Mt 7:20)."

As members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Congregation of Divine Providence stands with more than 1300 leaders of Catholic sisters nationwide as we make this statement:

"The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) joins with the world in praying for peace after witnessing the violence and lawlessness yesterday in our nation's capital. We are deeply concerned about the state of our country and the future of our democracy. Our hearts ached as we watched these despicable actions that threaten not only to destroy the seat of our government but to rend the bonds that unite us. We commend and thank the members of Congress who courageously continued their service to the nation last night even amid the chaos.

In our increasingly divided nation, we renew our commitment to the common good and pledge to take up the challenge to use our energy to repair our democracy and contribute to the work of building a more perfect union. We invite all people of good will to join us and we call on our elected leaders to point the way."

In Divine Providence,

  
Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP  
Superior General