

JUNE
23

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received, but only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.

- St. Francis of Assisi -

The Catholic Gentleman

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Statement on the death of George Floyd

We are living through a vulnerable time as we face the acute threat to human life in the coronavirus pandemic. In the midst of this we are now confronted with the death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement in Minnesota. The images of Mr. Floyd's death that have surfaced are heartbreaking and disturbing. Let us offer our prayers for his eternal rest and that God console his family and community in this time of great pain. It is imperative that this matter be investigated and adjudicated with total impartiality so that justice can be served.

The wound that many are carrying with regard to race and its relationship to our criminal justice system has been tragically reopened. We cannot dismiss the outcry of the people for justice for all before the law. While we do not condone violent and destructive responses to this, let us, as people of faith, receive the justifiable feelings of anger, exasperation and despair that are being expressed with empathy and understanding.

And, finally, let us ask ourselves, how can we take the lesson that we are learning about the value of human life from COVID-19 and apply it to this situation? How can we carry out relationship building without any walls of color, gender, age, economic condition, political party or other divisions that plague us? I invite you to pray over these questions.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes

THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND EFFECTIVE, ABLE TO DISCERN REFLECTIONS AND THOUGHTS OF HEART.

-Heb 4:12

Today you are invited to visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage and see the resources offered to not only educate, but help bring awareness to the sin of racism. Today and everyday you are invited to not only pray for the end of racism but to allow the Lord to give you the courage to stand up for our brothers and sisters in Christ that face racism. Attached you will also find the link to the California Bishops, Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism.

USCCB - <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm>

Stations of the Cross https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYc9_QlRgr4&feature=youtu.be