



Statement regarding the death of Mr. George Floyd

June 3, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The horrendous death that you and I witnessed on television last week of Mr. George Floyd has evoked anger and pain in so many of us, regardless of our race. These experiences of mistreatment do occur all too often to people of color. They stir a disgust in so many of us asking, “Why?” Given their frequency we rightfully ask, “When will this kind of thing end?”

We can be better than this as a nation! This horrific event casts a spotlight on the reality of racial, criminal and economic injustice that is alive in our country. It reaffirms for me that we need to be willing to engage in a serious conversation about race relations. Before we heal the wound of racism in our country and before we start telling people what we believe, we need to hear the pain that is real and palpable for so many people today.

It is my hope that our civil leaders will help us to engage in a conversation that is real and allows us to engage in honest dialogue, with the hope that substantive changes in our society can occur from our local neighborhoods to the economic and judicial system of this country.

Although profound anger has been expressed in the streets this week, we must be reminded that we have many wonderful police officers who are here for you and me to protect us and are willing to assist us when we are vulnerable or in danger of any kind of hurt or pain. I am grateful for their service as ‘first responders.’ They put their lives on the line and we should have profound respect for them.

Lastly I wish to address the protest, violence and destruction that we have seen in our American cities. Peaceful protest is an expression of our anger and desire to change, but the destruction of people’s property and violence against anyone is NOT a means to justice. One of my great heroes has always been the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He inspired me as a child of color in the community I was raised and greatly influenced me in my priestly ministry. He believed strongly in calling out all injustice and to speak the truth, because at the end of the day, the truth will set us free! Let us pray for each other and for our country. May we all be instruments of healing!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey