

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart Parish,

With the shocking news of the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd, we are called to continue our troubled journey through these difficult, distressing times. Times of suffering and pain, sadness and anger. I would like to recommend to you the links to articles that I have found helpful. [At this link](#), you can read the May 31st statement from Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and you can read Bishop David M. O’Connell’s statement [at this link](#). You can also watch a video and read an excerpt from Pope Francis’s statement on June 3rd [at this link](#). I am grateful for the guidance and assistance of their words.

As we recently celebrated the Most Solemn Feast of Pentecost, we recalled that the Apostles were gathered together in prayer when the Holy Spirit came upon them. As we come together in prayer in the days and weeks ahead, let us remember the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and his loved ones who mourn his loss. Let us also in prayer lift up our nation and our neighborhoods to our loving God. May His abiding Spirit help us to be messengers of His Mercy, witnesses of His Truth, instruments of His Peace, loving signs of healing and hope. Let us continue to be faithful bearers of the Gifts of the Spirit – Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord that we may together in union with the Holy Spirit renew the face of the earth.

Jesus said: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus remain with you and keep you in His care.

Father John