

Prayerful Considerations on Social Justice in these Troubled Times

St. Teresa Parish, 6/10/20

Christian solidarity as understood by the Catholic Church takes a radical approach to justice and harmony, the “right-ordering” of society. That starts with each of us and our immediate family and extends to our parish and neighborhood, then to our larger community (Lincoln) and all the way to our nation and ultimately to all mankind. *So when there is a large tear our social fabric – a manifestly “wrong-ordering” of society of some sort – our faith tells us ALL of us are affected.*

The ongoing societal crisis that has boiled over in America from the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25 has led to shock, pain, anger, consternation, disillusionment and other very real (and often very raw) emotions. In my opinion, *the one emotion we should resolutely guard against is indifference*. Understanding, healing, personal growth and a commitment to authentic reform in ourselves and in our social order – always accompanied by prayer and humility for us as Catholics (because God is in charge) – are called for in response.

Providentially, our Faith has a great deal to offer us this regard:

Novena for National Unity & and An End to Racism, Knights of Columbus
<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/national-unity-novena.pdf>

6/7/20 Sermon, *The Trinity as Source and Goal of Human Unity*, Feast of the Holy Trinity, by our own Priest in Residence, Father Christopher Goodwin [pdf – separate attachment]

6/3/20 Pope Francis' *Address to the People of the United States* (at the conclusion of his June 3 General Audience) <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm> click on Pope's Youtube video

5/31/20 *Statement on George Floyd and the Protests in American Cities*, U.S. Bishops' President, Archbishop Jose' H. Gomez of Los Angeles, <http://usccb.org/news/2020/20-84.cfm>

5/29/20 *Statement on the Death of George Floyd*, Bishop Sheldon Fabre (Diocese of Houma-Thibodeau), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm> click on Bishop Fabre's Youtube video

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part 3, Chapter 2, Article 3 “Social Justice,” paragraphs 1928 - 1942 <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/>

My thanks to Father Goodwin – his sermon helped me focus as I was stumbling to pull this together – and to Father Hottovy – he encouraged me and pointed me to the K of C Novena.

– Andrew Cunningham, Social Justice Representative, St Teresa Church Parish Council