



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 328-3210

*Statement Regarding the Death of Mr. George Floyd and the Recent Events of Violence  
throughout the United States,  
Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020*

How often have we heard the words of Jesus proclaimed from Holy Scripture, “Take up your cross and follow me?” These words are now so very real, no longer just a familiar passage or the words of an inspirational song! We are now carrying very heavy crosses: the trials and challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, so severely exacerbated by and joined to the heavy cross of the pain and suffering caused by the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd. How shall we sustain our communities and endure these great losses? The only answer is placing ourselves in the hands of the Lord as we seek solutions to curing the Coronavirus and ending acts of inhumanity.

In the days following Mr. Floyd’s death, peaceful demonstrations seeking justice and reform have been greatly scarred by acts of violence, injuring and claiming the lives of innocent people and destroying businesses and properties of good, hardworking people, already financially desperate because of the pandemic. Those dedicated to preserving our freedom and protecting us from all harm, who have fulfilled their duties conscientiously, have all been judged according to the unconscionable actions of those who betrayed the trust of the citizenry; the result is that fear and anxiety have grown and few, if any of us, feel truly safe.

Yes, it is far beyond the time that we should be calling upon God to restore peace, justice, charity and tranquility to our communities, especially for our children. Let us heed the words of Saint Paul proclaimed on this Trinity Sunday: “Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.” Can’t we agree that every person is a child of God made in His image and likeness? Can’t we agree that injustice, anger, violence, prejudice and racism must not define who we are as the sons and daughters of God? Do we believe in those two great commandments given to us by Jesus: “Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself”? How deeply inscribed in our hearts are the words of Holy Scripture proclaimed on this Trinity Sunday in the Holy Gospel according to Saint John: “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life?”

I unite with my brother Bishops throughout our country, with other faith communities and with all people of good will in praying for healing, the restoration of peace and an end to violence and racism which scar the dignity of every person. With the support and prayers of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we continue to work for that day

*Statement Regarding the Death of Mr. George Floyd and the Recent Events of Violence  
throughout the United States*

*Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020*

*Page two*

when, regardless of our differences, we conduct our lives with civility, charity, honesty and mutual respect. In his televised audience on Wednesday last, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pope Francis prayed for the repose of the soul of Mr. Floyd, for his family and friends who mourn his loss, and for an end to the unrest throughout our country. The first shepherd among us is pleading before the Lord on our behalf that we will proclaim life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all and cherish the principles upon which this country was first founded as one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

*+ Salvatore R. Matano*  
*The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano*  
*Bishop of Rochester*