

June 21, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

As I watch the news coverage of the many protests that are taking place throughout our city and our country, I am impressed and encouraged that many of those who are protesting are youth or young adults. Their voices are confident and strong, yet clear and truthful. They have had enough of “man’s inhumanity to man” and of people being bullied, beaten and killed because of the color of one’s skin and because of a privilege that has allowed one race to oppress and suppress another.



These innocent voices are quietly screaming to all of us that “Black lives matter”. These nonviolent protests especially emphasize the need for the white voice to be heard, to announce and show that Black lives truly matter. Courageously the protesters are wanting people to not only denounce racism but the white privilege that can be the fuel for it. This is truly a time for the white voice to speak out too, in solidarity with the other voices, tell stories of conversion and show that everyone is not racist or wants to be. It is time to lament the evil, forgive and seek forgiveness. It is a time to acknowledge and admit the effects of white privilege on all of our lives and how we are dealing with it and that we don’t want it to control us or identify us any longer. It is time to learn about white privilege, look honestly at ourselves, and acknowledge how our words and our silences have contributed to the sin of racism.

As always, together we ask the Lord to hear our cries for unity, peace, justice, dignity, respect, understanding, knowledge, acceptance, mercy, and forgiveness. As the Body of Christ, we want to help silence the evil of racism with hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ, living the Good News, sharing the Good News and being the Good News for all others. We have a number of yard signs on the hillside above our prayer wall and near the statue of the risen Christ, announcing the Good News, protesting racism, and claiming our unity in diversity. It is important for all of us that we can find our holy voice, as the Body of Christ, and be real food and real drink for all our brothers and sisters. Please come to the prayer wall and read the signs. Write a prayer and place it in the wall. Let’s pray that we can all become more aware and involved to speak and to act as the Lord is guiding us. Lord show us how to be your real food and real drink now and always.

Happy Father’s Day: Thanks to all of our dads for your great love and for bringing God’s love to us by the many ways you selflessly care for your children.

There is a Scripture that says, “Let no one on earth call you Father. There is only one Father – your Father in heaven.” Other religions use this line when they want to make a negative point about priests having the title of “father”. I always thought the title was given and could be given to anyone trying to imitate the love and care of the one true Father or parent. This is the only way that anyone can truly be a father or a parent. It cannot be of one’s accord but can only be of God and under God’s name. So, again thanks to all our Dads for reflecting the love of God to everyone you serve. May you be blessed as you bless so many. The following blessing is taken from [Book of Blessings](#), pg. 648:

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless all fathers, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7