



# St. John the Baptist

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

### Schedule of Masses

(June 27/28, 2020)

#### Saturday

4:00 - Fr. Ochu  
6:00 - Fr. Nitz

#### Sunday

7:30 - Fr. Rodriguez  
9:30 - Fr. Kozubek  
11:30 - Fr. Willis

### Baptism

Parishioners are asked to call the Parish Office for the times of the monthly liturgical celebrations and to arrange for classes.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please call the Parish Office to arrange a confession.

### Marriage

Parishioners requesting a marriage date must have been registered in the parish for six months.

### Phone Numbers

Parish Office & Rectory:  
301-622-1122  
Fax: 301-625-9266  
School: 301-622-3076

[sjbssparish.org](http://sjbssparish.org)

[FaceBook.com/sjbcc](https://www.facebook.com/sjbcc)

[@SJB\\_Catholic](https://www.instagram.com/SJB_Catholic)

### Sunday, June 21, 2020

### Ordinary Time: Twelfth Sunday

This week's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13 Psalm 69 Romans 5:12-15 Matthew 10:26-33



We return to Ordinary Time and the Gospel of Matthew for the rest of Year A. In today's reading Jesus says to his disciples three times some variation of "fear not" or "do not be afraid." The disciples (and we) are to be fearless. We can depend on the Father who knows all, even the hairs on our head. The father knows each and every sparrow, and are we not more important than sparrows?

Not many of us will be required to sacrifice our very lives in defense of the faith, but that does not mean that we won't have fears. Some are real and understandable, some are of our own making, and some like a pandemic that throws our whole lives into turmoil. Our task is to manifest fearlessness in caring for those in need and for those on the margins of society. We can overcome our own prejudices and implicit biases. In doing so we die to ourselves and allow the spirit of Christ to rise up within us. And be not afraid.

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Next week's readings - Ordinary Time: 13th Sunday

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a Psalm 89 Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 Matthew 10:37-42

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### Joyful News!

Daily Mass resumes tomorrow, Monday, June 22.

Daily Mass schedule: 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

Please be on time for Mass! To insure proper distancing, the doors will be secured at the start of Mass and late arrivals will need to come to the next Mass, which may be the next day.

### Weekend Mass begins June 27/28

Registration begins tomorrow, Monday, June 22, for Masses on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28. For Mass registration information, please refer to page three of this bulletin, the postcard you received recently or the SJB website.

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

**Saturday 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.**  
**(no evening Mass)**



Please remember social distancing when parking your car. The White Oak parking lot is also available.

## Parish Office Opens Monday, June 22

For Church related matters like requesting a Mass Intention, the Parish Office will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Chapel will remain closed until further notice.

## How to Keep Informed of SJB Parish News

**Flocknotes:** Visit our SJB website, [www.sjbssparish.org](http://www.sjbssparish.org), and on the first page enter an email address to receive Flocknotes through email.

**Bulletin:** Visit our website bulletin page at <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> to access the latest SJB bulletin. To have a link to the latest SJB bulletin sent directly to your email from our bulletin printer (FATA), visit <https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StJohntheBaptistSilverSpring> and enter your email address.

**Previous Bulletins:** Previous bulletins can be viewed by visiting <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> and selecting a bulletin date.

## ADW Information Resources

As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is paramount. Therefore, the Archdiocese is providing the following pastoral guidance and resources for your use:

The Archdiocesan website has a page with informational resources on coronavirus: <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>.

The Archdiocesan website has resources on how to receive spiritual communion: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.

Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org) and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our [YouTube channel](#).

Our Archdiocesan Sunday TV Mass is available online: <https://adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/>.

Here is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://adw.org/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

Pastoral care to the sick will continue incorporating protocols recommended by health professionals.

The Archdiocese will continue to make additional spiritual and informational resources available and provide regular updates on their website, [www.adw.org/coronavirus](http://www.adw.org/coronavirus). Please know of Archbishop Gregory's prayers and love for you.

## Mass Intentions (June 22 - June 27)

Monday	7:30 - Rev. John C. Kemper (Parishioners) 9:00 - Peter Violante (SJB School)
Tuesday	7:30 - Paul Rothberg (N. & J. Peters) 9:00 - Carmel Broadford -L- (G. & J. Petruzzeli)
Wednesday	7:30 - James Carr (Ms. Schwab) 9:00 - Peter Huan Nguyen (Parishioner)
Thursday	7:30 - Michael Bremner's Family -L- (J. MacLeod) 9:00 - Victoire Pierre-Louis (M. Charles)
Friday	7:30 - Rev. Bernard Ihrle (Parishioners) 9:00 - Meg MacKenzie (R. MacKenzie)
Saturday	9:00 - Peter N. Lombard (Family) 4:00 - Parishioners 6:00 - Eugene Davis (R. Davis)
Sunday	7:30 - Teresa Gomes -L- (Family) 9:30 - Norm Lagasse (G. Baugher) 11:30 - Dcn. John C. Cermak (Family) No evening Mass

## Parish Clergy

Rev. Y. David Brault	Pastor
Rev. Cezary Kozubek	Associate Pastor
Rev. Glen Willis	Weekend Associate
Rev. Austin Charles Ochu	Weekend Associate
Rev. Eliot Nitz	Weekend Associate
Rev. Nicolás Rodriguez	Weekend Associate
Deacon James Gorman	Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ed McCormack	Permanent Deacon

## Parish Directory

Father Brault	<a href="mailto:pastor@sjbssparish.org">pastor@sjbssparish.org</a>
Father Kozubek	<a href="mailto:assocpastor@sjbssparish.org">assocpastor@sjbssparish.org</a>
Parish Office	<a href="mailto:secretary@sjbssparish.org">secretary@sjbssparish.org</a>
Finance Office	<a href="mailto:kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org">kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org</a>
Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:adultdre@sjbssparish.org">adultdre@sjbssparish.org</a>
Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:youth@sjbssparish.org">youth@sjbssparish.org</a>
Liturgy & Music	<a href="mailto:sdecamp@sjbssparish.org">sdecamp@sjbssparish.org</a>
Social Concerns	<a href="mailto:socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org">socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org</a>
Athletic Ministry	<a href="http://www.sjbathletics.org">www.sjbathletics.org</a>
Parochial School	<a href="mailto:brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org">brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org</a>
Bulletin	<a href="mailto:sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org">sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org</a>
Parish Website	<a href="http://www.sjbssparish.org">www.sjbssparish.org</a>
School Website	<a href="http://www.sjbsilverspring.org">www.sjbsilverspring.org</a>

## **\*\*Bulletin Deadline\*\***

July 5 Bulletin & Website deadline  
Friday, June 26, at 9:00 a.m.

Send Bulletin announcements to  
[sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org)  
Send Website announcements to  
[kbrown@sjbssparish.org](mailto:kbrown@sjbssparish.org)

Happy Father's Day



**SJB Exposition Live Streamed**

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.



**SJB Daily Mass Live Streamed**

The 9 a.m. Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Church beginning Monday, June 22. We are currently working on the live streaming set up in the Church, therefore, live streaming Masses may not be available for a period of time.

**Reconciliation/Confession**

Confessions are available by both priests by calling the SJB emergency line, 301-622-3935.

Fr. Cezary is available for Confession by calling 301-622-1122 and leaving a message on his voicemail at extension 142.

**SJB Men’s Group**

Attention men over 18 years old. Join us Saturday mornings to connect with the Word and your brothers in Christ. Deacon Ed McCormack facilitates as we unpack scripture in an atmosphere of fellowship and community. Get your scriptural questions answered and share your faith journey. The ZOOM room opens at 7:15 a.m. and we get under way at 7:30 a.m. Guys say it’s the most fruitful one hour they experience all day. To join us with video & audio just go to:



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/873867511>.

Meeting ID: 873 867 511

For audio only by phone, dial: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 873 867 511.

For more information, please contact Dave Michaels at [invitedtolife@gmail.com](mailto:invitedtolife@gmail.com).

**SJB Parish ‘Drive Out Hunger’ Food Drive**

The next SJB Parish Food Drive drop off will be July 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. (No collection on July 4.) Dry goods are preferred. Food donations will be distributed to the St. Camillus Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity. If you have a question or need more information, please email Rob Farrell at [ROB@sjbknight.com](mailto:ROB@sjbknight.com)



**Alert - Scam Emails - Do Not Respond**

Many different scam emails using various email addresses have been sent to SJB parishioners in Fr. David’s name asking for help or money. Please do not respond to these emails. Fr. David communicates with our parishioners through the bulletin or mailings and does not send emails to parishioners. If you receive an email from Fr. David requesting money or assistance, please do not respond and delete the email immediately. Please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122, if you have any questions.



**Masses Resume Monday, June 22**

Due to COVID-19, there are many precautions we must take for the health and safety of all as we prepare to once again begin public celebrations of the Mass. To insure proper social distancing between people we will need to limit the number of seats available at each of the five Weekend Masses:

**Saturday 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
(no evening Mass)**

On Monday, June 22, we will start a weekly sign-up for every individual member of your family who wants to attend one of the Weekend Masses. Sign-up will open each week starting on Mondays at 12 noon and ending on Thursdays at 12 noon immediately preceding the upcoming Weekend Masses.

To sign-up to attend a Weekend Mass, please visit our website at [www.sjbssparish.org](http://www.sjbssparish.org) or call the Parish Office at 301-622-1122. Sign up is not required for Daily Mass. Please arrive early for all Masses.

**Please know that when you come to attend Mass:**

- A mask or facial covering must be worn.
- Entry will be through the main, front, wrought iron doors – only.
- Ushers will direct you to a seat.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new

**Personal Health Evaluation**

1. In the last two weeks, did you care for or have close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?



2. Do you have any of the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat?

If you or someone in your family can answer yes to either of these two questions, please refrain from signing up for Mass. Thank you for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

**Weekly Stewardship Report**

Our Weekly Stewardship Report will be suspended until our Masses resume.

While we are temporarily not celebrating Mass, your weekly donations to help keep our bills paid are appreciated. Please mail them to St. John the Baptist, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Thank you to all who have sent their weekly donations to the Parish Office. It is greatly appreciated.

## Social Concerns

Cynthia Norris, 301-622-1122, [social.concerns@sjbssparish.org](mailto:social.concerns@sjbssparish.org)

### Community Fund update

Thank you for your continued generous support of those in greatest need in our community. Parishioners' contributions allowed us to fund more of our supported agencies during this critical time. The agencies that are being funded are those who continue to provide direct service to clients. Once the other agencies resume services, we will reinstate their grants.

#### Agency Grants *temporarily* suspended:

Centro Tepeyac

Colesville Clothes Closet

MUSST

#### Agency Grants continued:

Catholic Charities Medical Clinic

Chrisma Charities

Colesville Meals on Wheels

Gabriel Network

EMEAN

MidCounty United Ministry

Shepherd's Table

St. Camillus Food Pantry

TASSC



You can support agencies by sending your financial donations to SJB via mail or Faith Direct on the [www.sjbssparish.org](http://www.sjbssparish.org) website. Checks should be made payable to **St. John the Baptist** with **Community Fund** listed on the memo line. If you would like to target your donation for a specific agency you can list the agency name on the memo line i.e., **CF, St. Camillus**, or send them directly to the agencies.

### St. Camillus Food Pantry

1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903

They have seen a tremendous increase in the number of individuals in our community utilizing the resources of the St. Camillus Food Pantries.

#### Immediate Pantry Needs

- Oatmeal in canisters not packets
- Canned Goods: Fruit, tomatoes, black, red, kidney (NOT BAKED BEANS)
- Vegetable Oil
- Sugar, White Flour

### Shepherd's Table

8106 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, Shepherd's Table continues providing free meals and other essential resources to our community. Due to the current situation of COVID-19, they have made some changes regarding hours of meal services. The clothes closet is closed until further notice.

Brunch and Dinner only. Brunch: 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Dinner: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The Resource Center will be open once a day, Monday-Friday: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### Current needs include:

Purchase items on their Amazon Wish <https://www.amzn.to/2X3mxko>

- Homemade peanut butter and jelly sandwiches individually packaged in a baggie
- Desserts: cookies, brownies, muffins, cupcakes individually packaged in a baggie
- Quart size Milk cartons and 10 oz juice boxes

If you cannot drop off your donations, contact Silver Spring Cares, 301-565-2523 Ext 115, to schedule a pick-up. In-kind donations are accepted at 8106 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and between 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on the weekends. Go to their website to get detailed information about all support: <https://www.shepherdstable.org/we-need-your-help-here-are-how-you-can-support-us/>

For more information please contact Cynthia Norris at [socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org](mailto:socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org).



## Congratulations Graduates



**Congratulations to the Eighth Graders who graduated from  
St. John the Baptist School on June 6, 2020**

Michael Banh  
Liam Barry  
Ryan Botkin  
Angelina Calis  
Nicholas Campagnari  
Olivia Croff  
Aidan Cunningham  
Sebastian Diaz  
Patricia Freeman

Jillian Gardner  
Maria Gomez  
Sophia Gomez-Napier  
Henry Heard  
Michael Hromalik  
Andriy Krzywucki  
Aidan Langan  
Anthony Margiotta  
Essete Mekonnen

Kristen O'Hara  
Lauren O'Hara  
Ethan Park  
Maria Rodriguez-Araiz (Valentina)  
Catherine Thomas (Cici)  
Eduardo Vasquez  
Veronica Williams  
Whitney Williams

### **High School Graduates**

Ryan Kim – The Heights School  
David Jon Linck – Blake High School  
Oliver Wolcott – Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

### **College Graduates**

Mario Jean, Jr. – The Catholic University of America,  
Master of Science in Business

### **Eye-glass Donations**

Thanks to the generosity of the St. John the Baptist parishioners, we recently delivered 82 pairs of used eyeglasses to the Sandy Spring Lions for distribution to needy recipients. We continue to collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids for distribution to the Sandy Spring Lions and used cell phones to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Phones will be reprogrammed to 911 and are distributed to victims of domestic violence. Collections will resume at a date to be determined. If you have any questions, please contact Stu Sklamm at 301-384-0784 or at [rsklamm@msn.com](mailto:rsklamm@msn.com). Thank you for your continued support of these very worthwhile projects.



### **Gabriel Project**

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County assists women in crisis pregnancies in Montgomery County. Women volunteers (especially bilingual Spanish speaking women) are needed to stay in touch with client mothers. Assistance is provided while following safety precautions recommended by health authorities during the pandemic. We collect new and gently used clothing throughout the year to provide wardrobes, baby items, small toys, and books for newborns through teen size 14/16. We are especially in need of girls' size 5 clothing (fall and summer), newborn (0-3) girls' and boys' clothing, newborn socks, boys' size 4 summer clothing (especially shorts), boys' size 12-month summer and winter clothing, and boys' size 5 summer clothing. We are also in need of newborn caps and baby soap, lotion, and diaper cream. Please contact us at [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org) or e-mail Diane at [Isabelle49@aol.com](mailto:Isabelle49@aol.com).

### **Maryland Assistant – Apply Now**

Do you need help paying your gas and electric bill or to afford food right now? You may be eligible to apply for financial assistance to purchase food for your household through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). You may also be eligible to apply for utility bill assistance through the State Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP).

- Apply at [www.mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us). Best way.
- Apply by Phone: Call 1-800-332-6347 Mon- Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. if you need help with an application by phone.
- Apply by Mail: No internet access? Call 1-800-332-6347 Mon- Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. to request an application by mail.

# Mystical Word

written by L.J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation, [ljmilone@sjbssparish.org](mailto:ljmilone@sjbssparish.org)

We continue with our contemplative exploration of the Book of Proverbs. This week, we reflect on a sampling of proverbs from chapters 11 - 13. As with all the proverbs, read it once and mull it over before teasing out its meaning. Pray over it. Ask God what the Spirit is telling you through the proverb.

Our first proverb is Proverbs 11:2: "When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom." Humility is a key virtue in wisdom literature and the Bible as a whole. Arrogance and pride are about self-reference and self-reliance. The humble rely not on themselves but on God. The humble are steeped in truth while the arrogant suffer from

illusions. Richard Clifford, a Jesuit priest and scholar of Proverbs, writes, "Arrogance and dishonor are personified as companions. One travels in the company of the other. Dishonor, however, is the very opposite of what the arrogant believe is due them...Paradoxically, modest people will be given the honor they do not demand."

We turn now to Proverbs 11:28: "Those who trust in their riches will fall, but like green leaves the just will flourish." We need constant reminders in our idolatrously capitalist culture that trusting in wealth, money, capital will never bring us eternity. The just flourish like green leaves because they trust in God alone. Clifford writes, "Wealth cannot substitute for God as a refuge from ultimate danger (see 11:4). The righteous are by definition 'right with God' and need rely on nothing other than God for protection. 'Fall' is used several times in Proverbs of the wicked person's fall into a pit (e.g., 22:14; 26:27; 28:10). In contrast, the righteous are compared to a leaf that not only does not fall but blooms, like the righteous in Ps. 1:3 'whose leaves do not fail.'"

Proverbs 12:18: "The babble of some people is like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise is healing." This proverb reflects an overall emphasis in the book on how one speaks and uses words. Our words can heal or hurt. Unconscious, reactive speech can damage relationships, even deepen injustice. But the way a wise person speaks can bring about reconciliation, peace, and even be occasions for renewal through simply speaking boldly and honestly. Clifford, likewise, echoes this meaning:



"Rash words cause serious wounds. The carefully chosen words of the wise, on the other hand, bring healing and edification."

Proverbs 13:8: "People's riches serve as ransom for their lives, but the poor do not even hear a threat." This proverb reminds of a saying of St. Francis: "if we had

possessions, we would need arms for our protection. For disputes and lawsuits usually arise out of them, and, because of this, love of God and neighbor are greatly impeded. Therefore, we do not want to possess anything in this world."

Proverbs 13:9: "The light of the just gives joy, but the lamp of the wicked goes out." The light of the just

person is God, our everlasting joy. A wicked person does not know this divine joy. Clifford notes, "The extinguishing of a lamp thus signifies the end of a person (Prov. 24:20; Job 21:17) or a household (2 Sam. 21:17). At the same time, a sign of a prosperous household is the lamp that never goes out...Where righteousness rules, there life and joy are to be found."

Proverbs 13:10: "The stupid sow discord by their insolence, but wisdom is with those who take counsel." The "stupid" are not the unintelligent but the unenlightened, the unwise. When we live out of an unenlightened mind, we will inevitably create disturbances and problems for those in our orbit, not to mention ourselves. Clifford writes, "Arrogance produces strife; in contrast, wisdom, the antithesis of superiority and presumption, is found with those who do not have antisocial and contemptuous...attitudes of arrogance. They can engage in the give-and-take of conversation and 'reproving.'"

Proverbs 13:20: "Walk with the wise and you become wise, but the companion of fools fares badly." This is such a wise proverb! The people with whom we associate have an effect on us. Quantum physics is proving this, namely, that groups of people do somehow share consciousness. So, naturally, as Clifford notes, "One becomes like those with whom one associates. The point is wittily made by the repetition of similar words... to be with 'wise people'... makes one 'wise'... 'who consorts with...fools gets into trouble.'" Mulling over these proverbs, then, is to keep good company!

*If you ever have any comments regarding Mystical Word, you are most welcome to contact L. J. Milone.*

## **Maryland's Catholic Bishops Issue Letter on Racial Justice**

June 15, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, Wilmington Bishop W. Francis Malooly and six other Catholic bishops serving the state of Maryland have released a new letter on racial justice:

Building Bridges of Understanding and Hope

A Letter on Racial Justice from the Catholic Bishops of Maryland

For centuries, our country and our State have been plagued with problems of racial inequality and injustice. Although many people have acted in good faith in service and prayer to bring about just change, to acknowledge the dignity of each life, and to love one another, our current crisis causes us to reflect on how much we still must do together to make impactful progress. We vividly recall our own Church's past sins and failings and admit to them freely.

With regret and humility, we must recognize that as Catholic leaders and as an institution we have, at times, not followed the Gospel to which we profess and have been too slow in correcting our shortcomings. For this reason, it is incumbent upon us to place ourselves at the forefront of efforts to remove the inequalities and discrimination that are still present in Maryland and our nation today.

Despite our painful history, the Church in Maryland has been deeply enriched by the gifts of Black Catholics. We think of Mother Mary Lange, who founded the first Catholic school for Black children in the United States, in Baltimore in 1828. One year later, she founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious order for women of African descent. Today, she is a Servant of God, in the process to be canonized a Catholic saint, a cause for which all Catholics should pray.

Maryland is also home to the National Black Catholic Congress, which acts as a witness and guide to the realities of the Black Catholic experience across the United States. It is also home to the Josephite priests and brothers, whose mission is to serve the African American community.

At a time when school segregation, sadly, was the norm in Maryland, two of our predecessors – Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle and Cardinal Lawrence Shehan – began the process of desegregating Catholic schools and parishes.

On March 12, 1950, in a homily on race relations, then-Archbishop O'Boyle said, "Unless the full resources of the Church are placed at the disposal of every single member of the church and made available to every man, there is no Catholicism worthy of the name. Our Sacraments, and our societies, our Mass and mysteries of the Faith are a common possession. Just as God is Our Father – What is Catholic is ours; it is all of us united as one."

This history provides the context for us today and should act to animate our prayers, thoughts and actions for an end, finally, to the sin of racism that remains with us and in us. The unjust killing of George Floyd and other Black Americans, and the subsequent protests, rallies and vigils that continue to take place make it clear that the conscience of our nation is on trial as questions of race and equality confront each and every one of us.

## **Maryland's Catholic Bishops Issue Letter on Racial Justice - continued**

We must recognize that all of us share the same human nature and dignity because we are all created in the image and likeness of God; this is why human life is sacred. We call all people of good will to prayer to root out any hatred and animosity that has taken hold in one's own heart. Inspired by Jesus' command to "love one another as I love you" (John 15:12), we must seek to know and understand one another and to work to break down barriers through listening, prayer and a commitment to change hearts and minds.

However, prayer and dialogue, alone, are not enough. We must act to bring about true change. United, we seek healing, harmony and solutions that recognize that every person has been created in the image of God and that every person possesses human dignity. Over the years, the Catholic Bishops of Maryland have stood firmly in our support of laws that sought to bring about justice and an end to unequal treatment based on race.

This includes access to health and maternal care, meaningful educational opportunities, prison reforms, restorative justice initiatives, housing anti-discrimination efforts, juvenile justice reforms, and ending the grossly disparate practice of capital punishment. We commend the efforts of our state lawmakers to convene working groups to discuss legislative initiatives that are needed for reform, transparency, and racial equality. We look forward to playing an active part in these conversations on both a state and national level, and to lending our voices to those whose own have been stifled or altogether silenced by those who seek to quiet them.

We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten the minds and hearts of our elected representatives so that truth and justice will prevail over the falsehoods of discrimination and injustice.

We pray that God will guide us during these difficult times and give us the courage to act with conviction in our duty to seek racial equality, heal divisions, and build bridges of understanding and hope.

In Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore

Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory  
Archbishop of Washington

Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly  
Bishop of Wilmington

Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell Jr.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville-Rodriguez  
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher  
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Most Reverend Adam J. Parker  
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore

Most Reverend Denis J. Madden  
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Baltimore

Bishop-designate Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR  
Auxiliary Bishop-designate of Baltimore