

Dear brothers and sisters,

The events of recent days have been shocking and unsettling. The death of George Floyd was brutal and unnecessary. It arouses within us a sense of injustice and outrage, as does the sin of racism, which looms over us once again. But the violence that followed this tragic death is also sinful. Innocent people were harmed and more lives were lost.

Pope Francis expressed well the dilemma and challenge we face: “We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.”

Let us pray for those who have been victims of racism and violence, and let us recommit ourselves to fostering peace and the dignity of every human person in our troubled nation. May God’s grace cast out hatred and bring healing and reconciliation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Most Rev. John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo