

## **Bishop Doherty's statement regarding the death of George Floyd**

Bishop Timothy L. Doherty

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The killing of George Floyd was brutal and unjust. I share the sentiments expressed by Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our prayer for George Floyd and his family does not ignore 'the outrage of the black community and those who stand with them in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and across the country.'

Today is a time when many ask how we should rightly respond. To honor those who have long experienced enforced social inequality and ill-treatment, we must first listen. As the US Bishops statement notes, 'We should be doing a lot of listening right now. This time we should not fail to hear what people are saying through their pain. We need to finally root out the racial injustice that still infects too many areas of American society.'

Peaceful demonstrations in the streets are one way to elevate voices for fairness and justice. Not so the wanton destruction of property and violence. Each of us is called to be a healer and peacemaker by virtue of our baptism. This same baptism calls us to link arms with others whose work is to set wrongs right and promote respect for each human being.

I ask our priests, in particular, to include prayer intentions in all our upcoming Masses for an end to injustice and the poison of racism, so that our very lives will breathe justice and compassion. I ask that each priest in the near future celebrate a weekday 'Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice' that is contained in the Roman Missal.

Dear Heavenly Father, pour out upon us and our society the gifts of wisdom, and healing, and a profound capacity for hearing as you would have us. Help us to stand with the merciful and those who mourn as Christ himself calls us. Assist us with the love that is afire with your Spirit. Amen.