



Archdiocese of Seattle Bishops Speak Out Against Hatred

March 22, 2020 – It is with heavy hearts that we offer this statement regarding the recent acts of violence and hatred against our Asian American brothers and sisters. The recent attacks, both nationally and locally in our own archdiocese, are indicative of a new era of hatred that must come to an end.

Harm against our Asian American brothers and sisters is harm inflicted on everyone. As members of the one Body of Christ, we wish to acknowledge the pain, the fear, the anger and the stress our Asian American brothers and sisters are currently experiencing. With a history of racism, violence and suppression, these fears for this community are very real and cannot be ignored.

Today, the Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities give life to the Northwest and the Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Seattle. These brothers and sisters have a long history in this region, dating to the 1800s. They have enriched the life of the Northwest, sharing their traditions and cultures with our Catholic parishes and our communities. We are so grateful for their presence and the gift of diversity they bring to our communities.

As interconnected brothers and sisters, made in the image and likeness of God, we implore everyone to respect one another, and honor the dignity of every person. Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34).

Each of us can make choices to demonstrate how we stand together in love and solidarity against racist acts of hatred. By baptism, we are called to bring more love and understanding into our world. This starts with our families, our neighbors, our parishes and the larger community. We continue to pray for the protection, healing and strength of our Asian American brothers and sisters while we stand in solidarity with them and continue to address the evils of racism.

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Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
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