

Jan. 17, 2021

This Wednesday, our nation will inaugurate a new president. Our every hope and prayer is for a peaceful transition of power. This is the American way. There is, however, much fear and anxiety in our land over what Wednesday will look like after the violence that we witnessed at the US Capital on Jan.6. Hopefully there will indeed be peace.

We will have our usual 12:15 Mass on Wednesday and our afternoon of adoration. Perhaps you will consider coming to spend time before the Lord as we hold our nation and our elected leaders in our prayers.

The events of January 6 and the events that we have witnessed in cities across our nation over this last year, remind us that violence is never the answer. We have seen how tensions in our nation reached a boiling point in varied ways. What was missing as these tensions rose? Things like love, respect, civility. This may be a good time for us to think about how we act when we find ourselves in disagreement with others whether it is over family issues or with someone at work or our disagreements over politics. We have to think about how we respond with our words and what we may write online as well. Our response must always be rooted in love and charity. We can disagree, we can try to make our view known but we can never stoop to a level of disrespect or violence...and words, yes words, can be violent.

Tomorrow, our nation pauses to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King said: "Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love. Love is not emotional bash; it is not empty sentimentalism. It is the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another." Imagine what we could do if we poured our whole being into another. Imagine what we could do if we began any disagreement by recognizing the person across from us as someone God created.

Let us all work on our charity, on our civility, on our commitment to nonviolent words and actions. Let us pray for our nation, for our outgoing leaders and our new leaders. And let us pray that we may truly learn the way of love. For in the end, love is what saved the world.

Fr. Scott McCue