



**MONTH OF PRAYER FOR HEALING AND PEACE
FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA AND BEYOND**

June 5, 2020

Archbishop Nelson Pérez exhorts all the clergy and faithful throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to respond to the recent events of unrest in our City and throughout the United States with intentional prayer for healing and peace. In his statement of prayerful condolences for the unnecessary death of George Floyd, the Archbishop further said:

Racial hatred has no place in our world, including here in the United States, or in the hearts of people. Every life is a precious gift from God. Racism is a mortal sin and an attack on that gift. All of us share a responsibility to bring an end to this evil and to do so in a way that seeks justice and peace. The perpetual cycle of pain and anguish must end. (May 29, 2020).

Priests and deacons throughout the Archdiocese are asked to address this urgent need for prayer for healing and peace in their homilies over the next several weeks. The following intention is to be included in the Universal Prayer (second category) for the Sundays of June.

For the eradication of all forms of racism among all peoples
and that all will open wide their hearts with the love of God and neighbor
so that healing and peace will mark our way of life.
Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.

Por la erradicación de todas las formas de racismo entre todos los pueblos
y que todos abran sus corazones con el amor de Dios y del prójimo
para que la sanación interior y la paz marquen nuestro estilo de vida.
Roguemos al Señor/Te rogamos óyenos.

Also, throughout the month of June, the prayer, *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace*, may follow the Prayer to Saint Michael before or after Mass. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, should be invoked with the praying of the Holy Rosary during this period. Parishes and religious communities might consider praying the Litany of the Most Sacred Heart Jesus, before or after Mass, with the intention for healing and peace on Friday, June 19, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All parishes, religious communities and religious institutions are asked to make the resources on combatting racism, in English and Spanish, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as widely available as possible. These resources include parish bulletin inserts, pastoral aids and prayer resources. Please see the link: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/parish-resources-on-racism.cfm>.

Clergy and faithful are encouraged to read the Bishops' 2018 document, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*. Please see the link: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>.

Please make this information as widely known and available as possible.