

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

**Monday, June 1, 2020 ~Memorial: Mary, Mother of the Church**

Readings: Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34

Dear Parishioners:



In 2018 Pope Francis decreed that the Monday following Pentecost was to be a Memorial dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. Without Mary's "yes" to the will of God to be the Mother of the Son of God, redemption and salvation would not have come to us. Thus as the Church was born on Pentecost Sunday it is fitting that we honor Mary as the Mother of the Church. Now, more than ever, do we need to be embraced by the tender devotion of our Blessed Mother as we travel through this "vale of tears" that is our world and our society today.

## **Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the wake of the death of George Floyd and National Protests:**

We are broken-hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What's more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.

While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful non-violent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged. Too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded, and we are not doing enough to point out that this deadly treatment is antithetical to the Gospel of Life.

As we said eighteen months ago in our most recent pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue.

We join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

We join our brother bishops to challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them. Listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity, and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.

As we [celebrate] the Solemnity of Pentecost ... we call upon all Catholics to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for a supernatural desire to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause. We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of Truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society.

### **A Little Humor:**

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and asked: "Mommy, why are some of your hairs white?" Her mother replied: "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turn white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and said: "Then Mom, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?" [Is it any wonder pictures of God the Father always depict Him with white hair and a white beard?]

Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player: "I asked him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said: 'Coach, I don't know and I don't care.'"

### **Riddle Me This (the famous line of one of Batman's foes, the Riddler):**

Yesterday's Riddle: I have lakes but no water, no cars, but I have streets; Many places, many borders, But I am all in one piece. What am I? (Answer) A Map

Today's Riddle: There are 30 mice moving around in a classroom during class, but no one is screaming? Why not? (Answer Tomorrow)

Who was the smartest man in the Bible? (Answer Tomorrow)

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanic

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