



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

May 27, 2020

The Fatal Arrest of George Floyd

Sadness, frustration, fear, and anger are but a few of the disquieting emotions resulting from the egregious fatal arrest of George Floyd of Minneapolis.

“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly,” wrote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We once again are feeling the pain that the use of violent force is wreaking. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, pray for the family of George Floyd, for all those struggling with his senseless death, the officers who must live with the results of their actions, and for the entire community. We are **“caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,”** again revealing systemic injustice causing indescribable suffering to all and disproportionately to our Black brothers and sisters.

As a community of women religious, we are impelled to “live authentically” and to “respond boldly” making us acutely aware of the cries of victims of violence who are our dear neighbors.

We urge elected officials and the entire community to boldly address ways in which we demean or deny people their human dignity and rights. We implore our criminal justice systems and law enforcement agencies to pursue accountability and realistic alternatives to the use of deadly force. We support police training that places, as its overarching principle, respect for every individual in order to reduce the dangerous fear experienced by and of law enforcement. Let us act in ways that demonstrate that all lives, indeed Black lives, matter.

We are consciously seeking to go deeper with greater awareness of the ways Whiteness contributes to systems of oppression and division so that we can see it honestly and more boldly address root systemic injustices. This is essential to the heart of our CSJ mission and charism that calls us to pursue unifying love in this world.

We turn to the God of mercy and peace to guide us in the ways of compassion and nonviolence, open to change within ourselves and our greater community. Understanding Dr. King’s words, **“no group can make it alone,”** we join you and others in seeking a more just world for all.

The Leadership Team of Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province
and
The Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates