

June 4th, 2020

The unjustified killing of George Floyd

Dear parishioners:

The unjustified killing of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin on Memorial Day last week is appalling to watch. The very people whose job is to safeguard the lives of others turn out to be the ones to destroy them, based on their prejudices or fears. Many of you, have called the parish asking about the position of the Church in regard to this sad event, I can assure you that it is not different from Jesus' position. Jesus is always on the side of the oppressed. Pope Francis, on Wednesday daily briefing stated: "we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, the Pope acknowledged the negative effects of violence. He said: "violence is self-destructive and self-defeating" America is great not when we pursue the path of racism and exclusion, but when we stand together as one nation under God.

The protesters which include many young people are asking for change not only in the criminal justice system, but also in the way we treat one another. In the 1960's Dr Martin Luther King Jr dreamed of a world where people would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Jesus said: Every city or house divided against itself will not stand" Mat 12:25

As Christians, we must always stand with the oppressed; we should not be concerned solely with the souls of human beings, but with his socio- and economic well-being as well. The changes echoed by the young people protesting in the streets, must take place not only in the law of the land, but also in the hearts of human beings. Dr King said: "The time is always right to do what is right."

"It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me."

Let's conclude with the words of the prophet Micah That I quoted in my priesthood's invitation cards 27 years ago: " You have been told, o mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you, Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. "Micah 6:8

Let's continue to pray for peace and justice in our world.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Fr. Franky

