

## Holy Trinity

**Black lives matter. They matter to me. This week I called several black friends to see how they were doing in this time of unrest. When a Minneapolis Police Officer killed George Floyd, unarmed and in handcuffs, pleading for mercy amid bystanders, a wave of protests erupted throughout the United States, many of which turned violent. My friends shared a wide range of emotions. One woman recalled when her family moved into a new neighborhood 30 years ago, every day police stopped her two young sons walking down the street, asking what they were up to. She still worries about her kids and their kids. She said, “You just can’t imagine it. Black parents never relax.” She and her husband are both professionals, but she cautioned her sons that many people would judge them by the color of their skin, not by the success of their parents. If they do succeed and move into a home in a nice neighborhood, they could be shot for jogging down the street. She said, “It’s hard for children not to grow up in hate and fear, but you cannot let the devil win. You have to pray and focus on the good people you know.” Another woman told me that just this week a security guard followed her through every aisle of a store. All my friends condemned violence and looting. One went to a rally, but when things got crazy, left immediately. Many of them are not going out - not out of fear for the virus, but fear for prejudice. Even going to church feels like a courageous thing to do. But they all trust in God’s help.**

**I’ve known Kansas City’s Police Chief Rick Smith for eight years and I think highly of him. During that time I sometimes needed the help of the police force. Officers always came; they always acted professionally. Chief Smith has come to worship at this cathedral for the annual blue mass when we pray for, thank and honor our police department. They deserve our support.**

**The Catholic bishops of the State of Missouri wrote this week: “Racial and ethnic injustice continues to exist in our state and in our country, and we cannot turn a blind eye to it. We must ask ourselves what systemic changes are needed to address it. We must also honestly examine our hearts and ask God to eradicate any vestige of it that might lie there.” The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops posted these words: “we will plead for peaceful non-violent protests, ... we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged.” Pope Francis addressed these words to Americans this week: “My friends, 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, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.”**

**On Trinity Sunday, we honor God who is Three in One, the very exemplar of unity. Today’s second reading closes with a salutation from St. Paul that you often hear the priest quote at the beginning of mass: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” The Trinity of Persons offers us a trinity of virtues. The same reading begins with this appeal to the Corinthians - and to all of us. “Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” My brothers and sisters, we are all children of the same God, a God who is Three, and therefore diverse, but a God who is also One.**

Sunday, June 7, 2020