



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

June 5, 2020

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito

Statement on Equality

We have undertaken the opening of our churches in the Diocese of Palm Beach on the foundation of prayer, prudence, and patience to ensure the safety of all and to eliminate the pandemic of the coronavirus. Tragically, we also are in the midst of other destructive viruses which also requires prayer, prudence, and patience for their elimination. They are the virus of racism which continues to infect our nation and the virus of violence which has erupted it in response to it. We must do all we can to eliminate the devastating destruction which these viruses cause to our great nation.

One of the blessings of our country is the right to express our opinion in a legitimate manner and the right to protest injustice and inequality in a legal manner. However, the employment of violence in such expression is of the same nature as the injustice and inequality of racism that is rightly being protested. When we encounter racism and violence, we are in the face of the most infectious forces of evil.

As Pope Francis recently 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 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’.”

We pray in a very special way for George Floyd, his family and for all those afflicted by racism and violence. We join with and pray for all those seeking peace and healing within our nation and for those who offer their lives for the protection of others.

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