



Statement from the President Couple Responding to Racism

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love."

(1 John 4:7-8)

We have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in our nation in recent days. As president couple of the Christian Family Movement (CFM), we stand at the side of Pope Francis. "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." We pray for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism and pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends. Racism, in any form, is in direct opposition to our call to follow Christ and we stand against this injustice. We commit ourselves to working for peace and justice and pray for national reconciliation.

The vision of CFM states that we "strive to equip families to intentionally address the concerns facing families in modern society." As a movement we commit ourselves to listening to the experiences and perspectives of those who experience racism. Open and honest discussion can be difficult, but it is the only way forward. As an organization that has influence on the families within the Catholic Church, the CFM board of directors commits to reevaluation of our current system to see how we can improve and be proactive in our race relations. We rededicate ourselves to creating opportunities for dialogue open to all – listening, evaluating and acting to make a difference. We must listen to all voices to eradicate all injustices, specifically racism in the world, and beginning with our own specific environments.

We unite ourselves to the prayers of Pope Francis, to our Bishops, and to all those seeking an end to racism and division and bringing about peace. May God guide the leaders of this country and all of us to make a difference wherever we are.

Brian and Mary Ann Thelen - President Couple of Christian Family Movement-USA - June 12, 2020