

## CONCERNS IN THESE TROUBLING TIMES

I want to take the time to address the grave issues and concerns taking place in these times. Because of the pre taping of the liturgy it is difficult to comment on what is happening in real time as it unfolds so I would like to address this now so it can be edited in. There are many layers to what we are seeing and experiencing .

What took place in Minneapolis to George Floyd is devastating. We are to share in the outcry and sadness that this could ever happen in any place.

We are also to understand the need for peaceful protests and voices demanding change. Images of a person of color embracing a law enforcement officer sent a strong message as did many of the posters, banners and signs that were created. These powerful statements are important and should not be forgotten.

The violence of recent nights is self-destructive and a distraction to the issues that need to be addressed.

No one should have to barricade their home or business. No one should have to smell tear gas as they walk peacefully in their neighborhood. We have seen this and much more.

Good overcomes evil. On the morning after in many places neighbors who never met each other descended upon streets and sidewalks to help the clean up effort. What a powerful declaration not provoked by fear but by love.

This is a time to recommit ourselves to the life issues that are the foundation of who we are as believers of Jesus Christ. Racism is a life issue. Violence is a life issue. The destruction of property, looting and stealing is a life issue.

To make a difference we must ask ourselves how can we improve in our treatment of one another? How can we make a positive impact where we live? How can we see and really see our neighbor and our enemy as created in the image of God? How can we embrace them with the dignity of holiness that they deserve? It all begins here.

I long to be with you in prayer for all those affected and devastated in these times.

I long to be with you in prayer for all of the victims of racism and violence of any kind.

I long to be with each one with you in prayer for the good an honest members of law enforcement, our first responders and our service men and women who protect our freedom.

May God allow us to begin making a real difference through really seeing the dignity found in the gift of all life.



Fr. John

## FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

We make the sign of the cross throughout our celebrations of Sacraments. We also sign ourselves before and after private prayer. We are very accustomed to the mantra of "Father, Son and the Holy Spirit." For each of us, it began when we were Baptized. We were Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A cross was traced on our foreheads claiming us for God, as well as a sign of being claimed by Him. What an awesome gift from God. For me, one of the prayers that is very special is the great Doxology. In every Eucharistic Prayer we use at the celebration of the Eucharist, we conclude with what is known as the Doxology, "through Him and with Him and In Him, O God, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours forever and ever." This powerful acclamation allows us to give the glory to the Trinity. While Jesus is present on the altar, while His body and blood have now graced our presence by the saving act of love, we give praise to the Trinity. It is on that acclamation that the community then responds "Amen", yes we believe. We are not only believing in the bread becoming the Body of Jesus and the wine becoming the Blood of Jesus we are lifting our very beings to the power of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This gift is to give us strength to walk forward in these present times. We are to acknowledge that all power, all glory is to belong to God and we are to live as servants of this proclamation. This is so crucial that the Doxology is the conclusion of every Eucharistic Prayer. The power of God is to lead us and we are to embrace the reality that God is offering Himself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us to give us strength on our journey and in our being.

This weekend, we are to be drawn into the powerful mystery of a loving God who comes to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God equal in majesty. May we begin by acknowledging it is only through Him, with Him and in Him that we exist.



Father John J. Ouper