



COMMUNION OF
SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCHES

PASTORAL LETTER
CONCERNING THE VIOLENCE OF RACISM IN OUR NATION

15 August 2017 C.E.

Solemnity of the Dormition-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the same God, and fellow Citizens of good will and conscience,

The Communion of Synodal Catholic Churches stand together to condemn the hatred and terrorism of this past weekend in Virginia perpetrated by those who fail to see the equal dignity of all human beings and fellow citizens of our country. The words of the prophet Malachi (2:10) call us to task: “Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?”

We are a country founded upon the ideal that all are equal under the law and all endowed with the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We are a Communion of Churches that holds to the same principles but with a divine mandate to love one another as we believe and experience we are loved by God.

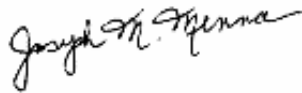
Our hearts cry out with pain and sorrow at the reality of hatred and division in our nation, but also deep conviction that the incitement to hate others because of race, gender, orientation or any other imposed view is contrary to our very nature as human beings. Further, those who incite this fear and hate of “the other” celebrate that which is most base and evil in the human heart and must be called out with all our strength as separate and beneath our dignity as a nation and people.

We call upon ourselves and those who hear us to “be strong and courageous” as our sacred scripture commands and our nation’s ideals challenge. We call upon our fellow citizens and people of faith to stand in peaceful but unwavering opposition to any challenge to our shared human dignity, and to work actively to make the promise of our ideals a lived reality in our national experience.

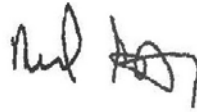
Further, we call upon our elected leaders from the White House, to the Congress, to the State House and local municipality, to fulfill their constitutional oath to condemn these acts of hate and the groups that perpetuate them, and to use the power of our government to more faithfully ensure the equality, security, and freedom of all the citizens of our country.

We encourage all to combat acts and thoughts of hatred with our words and with actions that support human dignity and that denounce and counter hate and prejudice. We stand with hope against fear, with love against hate, and with conviction of equality and peace against division and persecution, and invite all to stand with us and each other in the same.

In Christ our Way, in Whom All Divisions Cease,



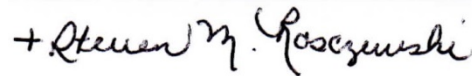
The Most Rev. Joseph M. Menna, AIHM
Bishop, Diocese of St. Thomas of Villanova



The Most Rev. David C. Strong,
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The Most Rev. Martin de Porres Griffin,
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