June 3, 2020

Dear Catholic Scouters,

In the wake of the death of George Floyd and the subsequent national protests, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting stands in solidarity with the United States Catholic Bishops who in their response to the death of Mr. Floyd have identified racism as life issue.

*Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.*

Statement of U.S. Bishop Chairmen in Wake of Death of George Floyd and National Protests

Additionally, today Pope Francis added “At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.”

We support and seek to do all we can to further realize the mission of the Boy Scouts of America in preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Through the programs and goals of scouting, the church partners with all families and communities in raising young people of high moral character, developing their leadership skills and preparing them to serve and thrive in a world of increasing complexity and challenge.

We appeal to all Catholic Scouts, youth and adults, to examine your conscience with regard to racism and bigotry in all its forms. Listen to and know the stories of our brothers and sisters who have suffered from racism in history, and in the present. As a person of faith, work to address both individual and systemic racism. Commit to raising your awareness of racism in whatever situations you find yourself, family, school, work, and your scouting unit.

As Catholics and Scouters, we pray for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and his family. We pray too for all who have suffered the effects of racism and bigotry. We appeal to Almighty God that Holy Spirit will watch over our communities and bring to an end this civil unrest. Let us pledge ourselves to the conversion of hearts, minds, and institutions and therefore bring to an end to the evil of racism that still exists in our communities.

For more information and guidance please see the United States Bishops recent pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.*

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a Youth Ministry,

Jim Weiskircher
National Chair 2019-2022

Father Joe Powers
National Chaplain 2019-2022