

## Bishop's Response to Killing of George Floyd

*Bishop George Leo Thomas' Statement on the Killing of George Floyd*

I join the growing chorus of U.S. Catholic Bishops speaking in one voice as we express our deep sadness over the heartbreaking death of Mr. George Floyd. We urgently pray for the cessation of the violence and destruction which has so sullied the memory of a man who lost his life under tragic and unnecessary circumstances.

We are broken-hearted, sickened, and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our eyes. The senseless taking of life defies the fundamental principles of justice and respect for human life. We must recognize the fact that all lives are sacred. As Catholics, it is not enough to relegate our concern to only thoughts and prayers. Our Church, at every level, must speak out unequivocally and work against the sin of racism.

As the U.S. Bishops stated in their recent pastoral letter against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," people of good will must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. The Bishops of the United States consistently hold that, "It is not a secret that...attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness. As Bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue" (p. 30).

We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy. We support peaceful, non-violent protests and stand in support of those understandably outraged. We pray for comfort for all grieving families and friends. We applaud the majority of law enforcement officers who follow lawful protocols and demonstrate appropriate restraint, often in the face of threats, and we express our profound sorrow to the families of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

As we approach the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, we plead for the strength and

wisdom of the Holy Spirit. "With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this wellspring of strength and courage must move us to act. Consequently, we all need to take responsibility for correcting the injustices of racism and healing the harms it has caused" ("Open Wide our Hearts," p. 23). We challenge everyone, especially those from different cultural backgrounds, to

come together peacefully to work toward a society where justice, peace, and charity may be shared by children of the same Creator.

Asking God's abundant blessings upon our Diocese, City, State, and Nation, I am  
Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+Bishop George Leo Thomas  
Bishop of Las Vegas



*Our "in-house" staff, Henry Freeman (left) and Gary Cavalier, help make 350 "to-go" dinners featuring Julia's chili with shredded cheese on top and garlic bread. We have been making a few hundred "to-go" dinners almost every Wednesday and Saturday since the end of March for The Water and Solidarity Collective to distribute at the Care Complex and a large homeless encampment.*

## Catholic Worker Food Line begins July 4th

The food line will begin again on July 4th after a closure due to COVID-19. Volunteers will now be required to sign-up for shifts by phone or e-mail, please do not just show up. The soup line will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings with Morning Prayer at 6 a.m.,

assembly of "to-go" meals from 6:15 to 7:15 a.m., serving meals from 7:30 to 8 a.m., and cleaning up afterward. To sign-up please call (702) 647-0728 or e-mail ([mail@lvcw.org](mailto:mail@lvcw.org)).

Sorry, the July 4th food line serving day is already full.

## What's his name?

by Robert Majors

*I am writing this letter to ask you for your support  
thousands of people in a crowd  
one man killed*

*Blame and pain stampede out the bull horn  
Thousands move*

*Black, white, latino with signs  
"Black lives matter"*

*"I'm not black, but I am with you"  
Mexican flags*

*Solidarity  
moving like a river*

*through the city corridors  
A river of boiling blood*

*Leaving spray paint stains on the building facade  
"Fuck 12", "BLM", "ACAB"*

*What's ACAB?*

*The sound of the river pushing off the walls  
Screaming "no justice, no peace"*

*As cars are swallowed whole  
waves of traffic halted in one place*

*Quickly, they become part of the river  
sounding horns and solid fists held high*

*Music playing from long ago  
From the culture of struggle*

*To ask you for your support  
The river crashes onto the shore of the empty courthouse*

*Here, justice operates Monday-Friday 7 am to 5 pm  
The river moves to the detention center next door*

*Where justice and injustice sleep together  
In a bed that never sees rest*

*outside the river crashes at its walls  
Then recedes into the heart of its purpose*

*from this passion it crashes again  
Each time stronger, banging on the walls*

*No one answers  
Nobody*

*is providing an answer  
What's his name?*

*The river trickles and flows  
Down the streets like lava from a hilltop*

*Pouring hot and bright  
Consuming all that it passes*

*Spreading through the streets  
Chanting and marching*

*moving in all directions  
Stopping to remember what it moves for*

*The energy in the crowd lights fires  
Colliding with the volatile fumes of tear gas and tyranny*

*igniting chaos at its edges  
To ask you for your support*

*Again  
To ask you for your support*

*Again  
What's his name?*

An appeal demanding justice for those unlawfully  
killed by a police officer:

[petitions.net/the1justicemovement](https://petitions.net/the1justicemovement)



On Memorial Day weekend, Robert Majors (above) helped the Water and Solidarity Collective build a "Conestoga Hut" for a nearby homeless encampment. The hut has a solid, arched front and back pieces with a solid floor; flexible insulation and wire mesh are wrapped around the arches forming the walls and roof. The hut was built in the Catholic Worker backyard and transported on our trailer to the homeless encampment.

## Empty Bowl Benefit

We regret that the Twentieth Annual Empty Bowl Benefit which was to have taken place March 14th was postponed due to COVID-19. We hope to have the event next year at Green Valley High School when it seems safe to do so. All prepurchased tickets from this year's event will be credited for the next event. Please call or e-mail if you have further questions.

### PLEASE JOIN US

#### Special COVID-19 Procedures:

Call or e-mail to schedule your volunteer morning.

Please do not just show up. Do wear a mask.

Visors, gloves and aprons provided.

To Schedule: (702) 647-0728 or [mail@lvcw.org](mailto:mail@lvcw.org)

**Thurs.-Sat., 6:00 a.m. (first day, July 4th):**

Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.

**Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 a.m. (first day, July 4th):**

"To-go" Meal served to 175-200 poor & homeless people.

**Thursday, 10:30 a.m.:**

50 lunches taken to the homeless.

**Third Sat. of the month:**

Deliver food boxes to homes in need.

**Second Wed. of the month, 4:30 p.m. (starts July 8th):**

Prayer service and meal following. Please RSVP. We will

be using *Lament and Hope: A Pan-African Devotional Guide*

Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial of the Forced

Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to

Jamestown, VA. The guide from Bread for the World features

history, reflection and prayer. [bread.org/devotional](https://bread.org/devotional)

**Fourth Wed. of the month, 4:30 p.m. (starts July 24th):**

Round Table Discussion, call for topic.

100% RECYCLED PAPER, CHLORINE FREE, FSC CERTIFIED