

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – Z (6/8/20)

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE:

- PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON
- TUESDAY: DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR END TO RACISM

PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings in the Lord!

Today's "UPDATE – Z" is a very brief one concerning the decision of Bishop Brennan over the weekend to declare tomorrow, Tuesday, as a "Day of Prayer & Fasting for an End to Racism and to Foster Healing in Our Community" within our Diocese.

Please see below for more information, as well as the attachments for some prayers and catechesis from our local and U.S. Bishops about the topic of racism and discrimination, and how to foster healing in relation to this important social justice issue.

As we all know, the past few weeks have been tumultuous ones for our nation, which have opened up many old wounds related to social justice concerns. As Catholics, our Church has suffered a long history (ever since colonial times) of also feeling discriminated against by many sectors of our society (even St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC was recently vandalized), so may we join in prayer to support others who suffer from unjust discrimination. May the necessary reforms take place where they are needed, and may we also pray for and support the majority of those in law enforcement who do protect and serve our communities with integrity and sacrifice.

The next update will likely be on Wednesday, to prepare us for the weekend.

On a lighter note: Now that we have hit "Update – Z", we may need to take a vote on whether to move on to the Greek or the Russian alphabet. Or perhaps this means that the end of Coronavirus – or the endtimes themselves – is now upon us.....

Our Mother Mary, Patron of our Hardin County Parishes, Pray for Us.

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

TUESDAY: DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR END TO RACISM

Excerpts from Bishop Brennan's note to priests from late Friday afternoon:

"Brother Priests,

Thank you for all your work and prayers in these tumultuous days. I know that you will include prayer for racial justice, an end to racism, and asking for healing within our community. An important part of our role is to listen and in doing so we are aware of the deep pain that many of our brothers and sisters experience. One person said, "We are hurting and have been for a long time, and we need to heal from the wounds of racism."

I am calling for a **Day of Prayer and Fasting for an End to Racism and to Foster Healing in Our Community this Tuesday, June 9, 2020**. I will offer one of the Votive Masses for Peace and Justice at the 12:05 PM Mass at the Cathedral which will be live-streamed and broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio. I will pray the rosary on St. Gabriel immediately after the Mass using the **Rosary to End Racism Prayers (which is attached for you to use as you see fit)**.

I was particularly struck by the Holy Father's message at the Wednesday Audience this week. That is on the [Diocesan] website as well. I have also **attached Bishop Griffin's Pastoral Letter from 1997** as a resource for you.

Again, I am really very grateful for your continued work."