Press Statement

For Immediate Release

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Public Statement of Leadership on the George Floyd Death and Related Incidents

CONVENT STATION, NJ - The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth stand in solidarity with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and all who strongly condemn the police-killing of another black man on the streets of our nation. We pray and mourn with the family and friends of George Floyd and all who have lost loved ones to racial violence.

We quote from their statement of May 30th:

“Racism is America’s original sin. It is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19 that has infected our nation since its inception and unless and until we address it, people of color will continue to die and our nation will never heal. Racism, whether the institutional racism which privileges some at the expense of others or the daily acts of hate and discrimination diminishes us all. It denies that most profound truth, that all of us are created in God’s image and each of us is entitled to dignity and respect.

As women religious we acknowledge our own complicity in institutional racism; we ask forgiveness of our sisters and brothers of color; and we pray for our nation’s healing, and we know that is not enough. It is time for bold, decisive action. We pledge to raise our voices and to act now to end this scourge which has cost us so dearly. It is long past time to dismantle white privilege and rededicate ourselves to building God’s beloved community.”

As women committed to live the Charism of Charity making God’s love known in our world, we echo once more Dr. Martin Luther King’s words, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

We pledge to work for solutions that offer hope and to advocate for justice and an end to racism, bigotry and hatred in our country and indeed throughout our world. This pledge is particularly crucial as we look to national elections in the Fall of 2020.

We pray for all those harmed by racial injustice, for our country to seek healing, and for our country’s leaders to take positive actions that will put an end to racial inequality on our streets and in our institutions. We also pray, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we make responsible changes in our homes and in our hearts that touch the world with love, with reverence and acceptance of the other, and with action that will eradicate racial injustice.

June 3, 2020