



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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August 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past several months we have seen a great deal of unrest in communities throughout our nation. While many people have protested peacefully against injustice, others unfortunately have turned to violence, rioting, and even looting. Most Americans of course simply desire peace in their communities.

Although legal and legislative efforts are essential in establishing the justice that brings peace, we also recognize that they are not enough. In such circumstances, Our Lord recommends to us, his disciples, the ancient practices of prayer and fasting (cf. Mk 9:29).

As such, I and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invite you to join in observing *Wednesday, September 9, 2020 as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in our communities*. That day is the Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, whose ministry to the African slaves brought to the new world serves as a great example of how to bring the peace of Christ to others.

Be assured of my continued prayers for each of you. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in His care.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington