

7 June, 2020

Dear Everybody at Wonderful Saint Leo's and beyond –

The Pope had important things to say to Americans at his general audience last Wednesday in Rome regarding the death of Mr. George Floyd, who was asphyxiated in Minneapolis on 25 May.

Let me draw your attention to the last sentence of his brief statement. The Pope invokes Our Lady of Guadalupe, “Mother of America.” The common title for Our Lady of Guadalupe is *Madre de Todas Las Americas* (“Mother of all the Americas”). Pope Francis is very much aware that *Todas las Americas* includes the United States, not just the Americas south of the Rio Grande. Calling Guadalupe “Mother of America” is both affecting and insightful. I think this is the most touching part of his message to us Americans and I fear that it will go largely unnoticed.

We have a little alcove dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the back of St. Leo's (on the right side as you enter through the front doors).

Here is a short prayer for you: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, Mother of All the Americas, show us a divine and maternal tenderness that heals our wounds and rescues us from the loneliness of strong men.

- Jim Fredericks

Full Text of the Pope Francis' Message on George Floyd Wednesday General Audience, 25 May 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in the United States, I have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd. My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that “the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.” Today I join the Church in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism. Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world. May God bless all of you and your families.

Here is a link to the video:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-06/pope-francis-usa-george-floyd-protests-no-racism-violence.html>