



Asian and Pacific Catholic Network

A 501 c (3) non-profit organization for the Asian and Pacific Catholic communities in USA

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STATEMENT

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ASIAN PACIFIC CATHOLIC NETWORK Expresses Solidarity with the Victims of Racial Violence

Asian and Pacific Catholic Network (APCN), a national organization representing Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, stands in solidarity with the victims of racial violence across the United States as it upholds its commitment to the core values of Catholicism.

The public uproar against systemic racism resonates in our Asian and Pacific communities. In the many protest rallies, thousands among us marched side by side with sisters and brothers from the African American and other racial groups. Harking back to Asian American history, from the Chinese railroad workers, to Filipino, Japanese, and Korean agriculture and field laborers, the experience of Asian and Pacific Islanders spans both ends of the racial spectrum. We have been victims of overt and subtle forms of racism, and more so in recent racist rants and physical attacks as Corona virus-carriers. Disturbing news reports from Los Angeles, the Bay area, New Jersey and elsewhere document acts of hate and intolerance. We cannot stop noticing the sad reality that racism is alive and well in this country notwithstanding the Civil Rights Act of the 1960s.

Asian and Pacific Islanders have been part of the solution, not part of the problem. We represent 6% of the entire U.S. population. We are 8% of nurse practitioners¹ and 18% of physicians² in this country. We are front liners and essential workers fighting the Corona virus pandemic. Many have even given their lives to this public health crisis.

We realize that APCN has a responsibility to speak up against racism and support marginalized communities. We wholehearted support the pastoral efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as the bishops “speak forcefully against and work towards ending racism”, and the Maryland Catholic Conference’s call to prayer and “seek to know and understand one another and to work to break down barriers through listening, prayer and a commitment to change hearts and minds.”

Starting with our APCN communities, we pledge to take the following steps to contribute to the effort to promote unity and social justice:

- As Catholics, we pray, reflect, and take action with the Spirit of God - the principle of love.
- Ensure diversity and inclusion among APCN membership and leadership.

- Continue education and empowerment of our families and formation of our leaders to respect life and dignity of each person as created by God, better understand cultural diversity, unconscious bias, facilitate respectful engagement about social justice, fostering diversity and inclusion, including appreciation of other cultural expressions of the Catholic faith.
- To support efforts of the Catholic Church, especially our local parishes and communities to address racism and inequality and to mobilize members to take action guided not by political interests but by Christian love.

We stand in solidarity with all who are actively driving efforts for enduring social change. On behalf of the APCN, we seek your support, your feedback, and invite your partnership. We welcome your shared commitment to this crucial work now and for the long haul.

In service,
Fred Semendy, Ph.D.
President, APCN

¹ DataUSA. (2018). Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives. <https://datausa.io/profile/soc/nurse-practitioners-nurse-midwives>

² Association of American Medical Colleges. (2019). Diversity in Medicine. Facts and Figures 2019. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/interactive-data/figure-18-percentage-all-active-physicians-race/ethnicity-2018>