04/06/2020

Statement from the Metropolis of Chicago's Junior Board Regarding the Death of George Floyd and Its Aftermath



On Monday, June 1, the Junior Board of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago made the following statement:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Metropolis of Chicago:

The past few months have been difficult for all of us as we continue to deal with the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Further testing our strength and resolve, social unrest has been sparked by an abhorrent tragedy that took place last week

in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The treatment and death of George Floyd was a tragic and devastating act of violence that must be addressed and prevented by all our spiritual, social and political institutions. Sadly, this indefensible event, along with similar occurrences in recent memory continue to bring systemic racism into focus in our communities; as Orthodox Christians it is our duty to stand against inhumane treatment. As our nation reacts to this tragedy, we are faced with peaceful protests that support the expression of our civil rights, but also unacceptable acts of violence and destruction that are counterproductive and misguided.

First and foremost, we urge the people across our six-state Metropolis to support safety within their households as well as their communities. The incremental stress, fear and anger that these circumstances have delivered affect each and every one of us differently; individually and together with our parishes, friends and neighbors, we must each take it upon ourselves to prayerfully mange these emotions and support peaceful healing.

Remember the power of prayer as an instrument to help us cope with these difficult events and remain guided by our Lord. We lean on our faith to provide comfort when we feel confusion, frustration, anxiety and anger. As always, if you or your loved ones need spiritual support, we urge you to reach out to your Priests and Spiritual Fathers. For up-to-date news and resources and a statement from His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael regarding these events, please visit Chicago.goarch.org.

People around the country and around the world are watching as leaders respond to the circumstances in their communities. We call upon all our Greek Orthodox faithful to lead by example and continue to be mindful of our thoughts, conversations and behaviors, to prioritize understanding, kindness and love towards ALL.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:12-13).
chicago.goarch.org