



## **Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition (CPMC) Statement Against Racism**

“For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn — and I would heal them.”

Matthew 13:15 NRSV

The Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition (CPMC) stands in solidarity with all people harmed by systemic, institutional, and structural racism in US society. We witness this daily while ministering in prisons, jails, and detention centers. It is impossible to walk into our criminal justice institutions and not see the disproportionate numbers of incarcerated men and women of color. Our hearts go out, especially now, to all those who have suffered for generations from discrimination, oppression, and exclusion.

Pope Francis invites us to join him in praying for George Floyd, all who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism, and for the consolation of their grieving families and friends. He warns us not to continue to tolerate or turn a blind eye to this injustice.

We are living in a time marked by tragedy and trauma. We are being invited to envision a better world. We do not want to go back to the old “normal” that accepted mass incarceration and ignored the brutality of our criminal justice system.

We call for a national examination of conscience. Systemic racism *must* end in this country. Black and brown lives do matter.

We, the CPMC, commit to continue to fight for those who have been viewed as voiceless. We turn to our merciful God for forgiveness of our treatment of our brothers and sisters of color. We pray and continue to work with our partners for healing, and for a justice that is restorative.