



DIOCESAN CALL TO PRAYER, REFLECTION, FASTING, AND ACTION

As we mourn the deaths of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Philando Castille in Falcon Heights, and the five Dallas Police Officers: Brent Thompson, Patrick Zamarripa, Michael J. Smith, Michael Krol, and Lorne Ahrens, we acknowledge that we who make up the Church of the Diocese of Baton Rouge are as diverse as the communities in which we live. We have different stories, different experiences, different backgrounds, different opinions, and different understandings. The current situation in our community is fluid and changing. As we search as a diocese to respond in a way that will unite us and bring us together to work for converted hearts and spirits, let's do what we can do now. Our immediate response is a sincere request that all adult persons in our diocese pray, reflect, and fast this week so that we may gain wisdom and courage to become personally and communally involved in building bridges across everything that divides us to become better brothers and sisters to each other.

The following reflection questions and prayer are offered to guide you in your prayer this week. Your fast may take any form you wish. Perhaps it can be what you found most helpful this past Lent.

Psalm 139 reminds us that we are all “fearfully and wonderfully made” in the image and likeness of a loving, forgiving and merciful God. Please consider these two questions in your prayerful reflection this week.

1. What does it mean to you that we are all made in the image and likeness of God?
2. How can you acknowledge this great truth in your words and actions toward those whom you perceive as “different” from you?

Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.