

# Prayer Service: Heal Our Nation

My Dear Parish Family,

Since March, we have experienced a pandemic that has basically shutdown our nation. Just as the Church was beginning to open up and there was hope for things to return to normal, just as the healing from the coronavirus was starting, the racial divide that has existed in our country was brought back to the forefront of the nation's conscience through the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The violence of this act spawned additional violence, as well-meaning, peaceful protests were overrun by some people who turned to violence, destruction and looting.

I know that we have been praying daily for an end to the coronavirus pandemic through our Diocesan prayer, but now our prayer efforts must be increased. As Christians, we are called to be a "light to the world." [MT 5:14] The light that we bring to the world is the light of love that should shine on the dark places of our society and make them brighter. Jesus has taught us to love one another, and I believe that it is only through love that we can conquer the hatred that has brought about both the murder of Mr. Floyd and the violence of some protesters.

Civil action is needed to bring forward the injustices that remain in our society, and lawmakers must take action to correct them. In order for those actions to happen, hearts must change. And changing hearts requires prayer.

Therefore, I am asking you to join me this Sunday, June 7 @ 2PM, in the parking lot of St. Paul of the Cross, for a prayer service. As we are still dealing with the coronavirus and its related protocols, we will attempt to maintain social distance, which we can do better outdoors. (You can even stay in your car.) If the weather is really bad, we may move inside, if the numbers allow.

Please bring the following:

- Face mask or face covering
- Rosary
- Umbrella and Sunscreen (it's summer in S. Florida)
- Bug spray (see above)

- And, most of all, a prayerful heart for the hurting

We are a community. We are a family. We are St. Paul of the Cross.

May God bless you, your family and the Parish Family of St. Paul of the Cross,

Fr. Tom