



RUSSIAN TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH - MM ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & THE DIASPORA

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STATEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH - MM ON THE RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS IN THE US

The year 2020 has, so far, been one in which tragedy, fear, anger, and uncertainty have burdened the hearts and minds of people in the United States and throughout the world. For the majority of the year these fears and anger have been focused on COVID-19, the new enemy that has swept through the country and the world leaving devastation in its path. Sadly, today the country is angry and fearful in response to a not-so-new enemy, racial inequality.

The death of George Floyd has exposed the bitter divisions that exist among us and has sparked outrage in many, both here at home and throughout the world. It has exposed deep cultural wounds that have existed far too long and that must be addressed if we are to heal and become whole.

We must commit ourselves to living in the knowledge that each and every one of us is created in the image and likeness of God. In Him there is no race, ethnicity, rich, or poor. We are all equal, all sinners relying upon the mercy and love of the Almighty Father. It is not, however, enough to acknowledge the truth of this tenet. We must live it. It is up to us to show our commitment through our words and deeds. We cannot claim to love God if we despise our brothers and sisters, for whom he suffered and died, just as he did for us.

I pray that in these trying times love conquers hate, hope conquers fear, and kindness conquers anger.

In Christ,

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First Hierarch of the Russian True Orthodox Church - MM