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A STATEMENT FROM MICHAEL MELARA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hi everyone,

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the deeply painful and heartbreaking events that are happening in the US right now with the killing of George Floyd, and many other killings particularly against members of the black community. These events are the direct result of the explicit and implicit racism that exists in all of the systems and institutions in this country.

For almost 100 years, Catholic Charities has served those who need us most, advocated for those who have no advocate, and walked with those whose path is the most difficult. Now, more than ever does this mission ring true. Catholic Charities stands against racism in all of its forms, and we stand in solidarity with black community. As an employee of Catholic Charities, you have a responsibility to practice compassion, inclusion, combat racism, and be a part of the solution. There is no room for racism, or social injustice in the work that we do.

Doing this work requires all of us to be constantly aware of our own pre-dispositions when it comes to race, religious beliefs, gender identity and all forms of inequality. As recommended in yesterday's Mondays with Mike session, I'm including a list of resources to get you started toward increasing your own awareness. In the coming weeks and months, please look for additional opportunities to engage in conversation around these topics. I'd also like to encourage you to share any resources you come across that you feel would be helpful for all.

I grieve for George Floyd, for those before him, and for all people who are suffering in our community. The source of all wisdom is an understanding heart. We must be open to the possibility that while we are all different, we can come to understand and value our differences, and become wiser and better people as a community and country.

My thoughts and prayers are with you always.

Mike