

in a
WordTM

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Statement re Charlottesville

by

Bishop Terry Steib, SVD

What a sad moment in America's history that took place in Charlottesville, so sad that one would not believe it was happening! The violent clash on August 12, 2017, between white supremacists and counter-protestors would make one think that our country has made no progress in overcoming racism. One would think that racism remains ingrained in the very DNA of white America and that a return to a racially divided America is advocated by many.

To make matters worse, in comments following the violence, the president of the United States did not condemn hatred and bigotry in their purest forms. If racism motivated voters to elect this president, how sad! If a racially divided society is the foundation that will "make America better" and to which the president wants to return America, how horrible!

And yet, this moment, this response of the leader of a free and diverse America, is a defining moment! Will this moment generate a true examination of deep-seated racism embedded in the mission and agendas of government and agencies, religion and churches, states and counties, cities and townships, urban and rural areas, business and industry, education and schools of higher learning, fraternities/sororities, clubs and social organizations?

Most importantly, will this moment push each of us to eradicate the racism deeply hidden inside us? Or, will we simply allow our hatred, our prejudices, our biases, our bigotry to rule us?

What does it mean to be America? To me, it means "land of the free, home of the brave," and a country where all are welcomed!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2017

National Black Catholic Congress XII Concludes with Commitment to Priorities for Action



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The theme of Congress XII is “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me: act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God”.

Orlando, Florida, July 9, 2017 – The Twelfth National Black Catholic Congress concluded on Sunday with the Delegates’ commitment to a Preamble laying out the principles of a Pastoral Plan of Action. After a concluding Mass celebrated by Bishop Roy Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D.C. with a homily by Bishop Fernand Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans the 2,000 Delegates agreed to the following Pastoral Priorities in the Preamble:

We believe the Holy Spirit, who is Lord and Giver of Life, is upon us. Because of this, we recommit ourselves to live our Baptism as Catholics, be “authentically Black and truly Catholic” and seek leadership in our Church on all levels.

We commit ourselves to promote the causes for canonization of the five holy women and men being considered for sainthood in our Church

We commit ourselves to act justly by living in proximity with those who are suffering and neglected. Specifically, we seek to promote the dignity and life of everyone person from the unborn to natural death. We commit ourselves to dismantle racism in all forms, which is an obstacle to justice and evangelization.

We also commit ourselves to address the challenges of mental illness, mass incarceration, domestic violence and others.

We commit ourselves to love goodness by sharing our Faith with others using creative ways, especially social media, as we evangelize in our community. We commit ourselves to support our Catholic Schools in our community.

We commit ourselves to walk humbly with our God and affirm the universal call to holiness as it is lived out in all forms of vocations in our Church – marriage, single life, consecrated women and men and clergy.

We commit ourselves to listen and respond to the needs of the youth and young adults in our community as we pass on this legacy of our Faith.

We commit to align these priorities with the outcomes of the Convocation of Catholic Leaders as “missionary disciples” called to spread the Joy of the Gospel.

Finally, we commit ourselves to apply these priorities on the local diocesan, regional and national level and review them on a yearly basis.

The Delegates also received a report from the Youth Delegates to the Congress which reiterated their commitment to the central elements of the Catholic Faith, expressed pride in their identity as both Blacks and Catholics, requested the opportunity to take leadership positions in the Church and emphasized their belief in the life and dignity of every human being.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact John Finn at 571-354-5642 or send an email at Jfynn07@yahoo.com or nbcc@nbccongress.org.

in a word or two

Congratulations to the National Black Catholic Congress for a spirit filled gathering in Orlando, Florida in July of this year. We here at IN A WORD were unable to attend this event. The first time since 1987! We may not have been physically present but we were there in Spirit and prayer.

The following photos are found on the National Black Catholic Congress website. They are just a sampling of the participants and the joy and spirit they expressed.

To view more photos and videos go to:
www.nbccongress.org
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Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

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