

## **STATEMENT ON THE RECENT EVENTS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE FROM THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER**

This past weekend, a racially charged, divisive protest in Charlottesville, Virginia escalated to violence and needless death. As we witnessed scenes reminiscent of the 1960s, we are surely reminded that racism and hatred still pervade society. The United States has made great progress towards countering racial discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance, but much remains to be done.

In Pope Francis's 2014 Apostolic Letter on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, His Holiness challenged the religious to "wake up the world" and "look to the past with gratitude...live the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope." Those words could not be more appropriate in these troubling times of racial disharmony. As Christians, we must not be afraid to wake up the world to stamp out injustice and racial division wherever it exists.

As the nation's only historically Black Catholic fraternal order with a proud heritage in the cause for civil rights and social justice, we are resolute in our commitment to the same. Our prayers are with the victims of Charlottesville and those among us who are suffering because of this intolerance and hatred. We pray for peace and unity in our great nation.

On behalf of the membership of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc.

JAMES K. ELLIS

*Supreme Knight and CEO*