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Dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus teaches us: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. This commandment from the Lord includes without any qualification people of every race, ethnicity, religion, and political conviction. For believers, therefore, there can be no justification for ever treating unfairly anyone else on the basis of these differences. I therefore join with our Holy Father Pope Francis, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Bishops of Illinois in specifically condemning racial injustice of any kind. I must also deplore all violence and disorder which tends to have an enormous and long lasting negative impact on the poorest and most stressed of our neighborhoods. I also ask your prayers for the safety of the overwhelming majority of our racially diverse police, fire departments, and first responders who daily and selflessly stand in harm's way in protection of all our communities. May the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, help Central Illinois and all of America to better live up to the highest ideals of our founding.

May God always bless and protect you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C.

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