



CHURCH OF THE
**DIVINE
CHILD**

September 14, 2020

Dear Divine Child family,

I am so sorry that a homily given by Fr. Paul Graney at the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday has brought forth division, anger, confusion and chaos. I first spoke with a couple individuals shortly after his homily. I could sense their anger and their hurt. Following Mass, I watched the live stream and spoke with Fr. Paul to express my opinion that his homily was not pastoral or sensitive to all the people who would be hearing it. I also expressed concern that he did not mention any of the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass. A homily is supposed to reflect on and break open the Word of God proclaimed. After speaking with Fr. Paul, I told him we would be removing the live stream from the parish's Facebook page, and did so an hour and a half after Mass. The following day Fr. Paul gave a pastorally sound homily based on the Scriptures.

As your pastor, I want to assure you that at Divine Child we love and respect all persons. Every person is sacred in the eyes of God regardless of their race, religion or sexuality. At different times we need to focus in on different groups and their particular needs. Right now, the murder of countless persons of color demands a clear response. The entire human family needs to unite in confronting these injustices. We must protect the lives of persons of color and be the voice for people who do not have one.

I, along with our principals Mr. Courage and Mrs. Spearman, are mindful and empathetic to the pain, anger and frustration that Fr. Paul's homily may have caused in our community – particularly our parishioners and students of color. We want all members of our community, especially our students, to feel safe, valued and supported. If you are troubled and feel a need to discuss this further, please contact our rectory office.

Shortly after the tragic murder of George Floyd, I said that we are being called to move from intolerance to tolerance, from tolerance to respect, from respect to love. I pray that this can be an opportunity for all of us to recommit ourselves to the call to love one another as Jesus loves us.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Bob McCabe