



Parish Council Resolution Condemning Systemic Racism and Other Abuses

Whereas, the ancestors of African Americans were brought here against their will, for economic gain, African Americans have continued to strive for and demand the natural rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” and

Whereas, they have continued to suffer from the effects of vicious, systemic animosity, cruelty, and terror; and

Whereas, such institutionalized biases have played a direct causal role in creating disparities in such quality of life matters as justice, healthcare, education, housing, and wealth; matters critical to shaping aspirations and promoting peace of mind and well-being; and

Whereas, such disparities have violated not only the principles of democracy and basic human rights and decency but the sacredness of life itself; and

Whereas, the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Alton Sterling and so many others was an outgrowth of said biases and demonstrated that Black life has not mattered enough in society; and

Whereas, the Council acknowledges that in the aftermath of Mr. Sterling’s death, Baton Rouge bore witness to waves of painful emotions such as anger, horror, helplessness and grief. These feelings were amplified 12 days later by the murder of three local law enforcement officers -- Montrell Jackson, Brad Garafola and Matthew Gerald -- creating further anger, shock and division; and

Whereas, such tragic events bear witness to the truth of the statement that violence breeds violence, and justice denied to anyone systematically will breed fear, contempt for the law, anger and division in our city, state, and country. *‘If a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand!’* (Mark 3:25)

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that We the Parish Council of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana by recognizing that Black Lives Matter we reaffirm that all lives matter in the ongoing struggle for liberty and equality; and

Be it further resolved that We the Parish Council condemn all forms of systemic racism, violence, and brutality and stand in solidarity with all who through prayer and action engage in the “good and necessary trouble” of rejecting, protesting, and devising solutions to such injustice and hatred; and

Finally, Be It Resolved that the Council shall continue to pray:

God our Father, You call us to love one another as You have loved us. We pray for the conversion of hearts in our Diocese of Baton Rouge to bring about racial harmony rooted in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, strip us of our pride, mistrust, and prejudices, so that we may be able to dialogue with one another to build communities where justice, peace, and love flourish. We ask these blessings trusting in the infinite mercy of Jesus and the intercession of Mary our Mother. Amen.

THUS DONE AND PASSED by unanimous vote of the Parish Council of St. Francis Xavier of Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this the 22nd day of August, 2020, at Baton Rouge.

Peter J. Breaux, PhD, Chairman
David Hall, Vice Chairman
Very Reverend Edward Chiffriller, SSJ

George Chike
Mary Denise Chustz
Shirley Crawford
Arthur Dubriel
Niles Haymer, Atty.
Paula Johnson
Christopher J. Rogers
Roderick Thymes
Travis Torrence
Toni Davis Vaughan
W. Kenny Williams