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"Christian response is prayer and gift of self"

Pope Francis has spoken out recently about the problem of racism and discrimination in the world, and the danger of seeing violence as the solution.

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In a June 3 tweet at Pontifex, the Pope said:

"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form. At the same time, we have to

recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us pray for reconciliation and peace."

On June 9 he tweeted:

"There are two Christian responses to escape the spiral of violence: prayer and the gift of self."

After his June 3 General Audience the Holy Father added:

"I greet the English-speaking faithful joining us through the media. Dear brothers and sisters in the United States, I have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr George Floyd. My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.

"At the same time, we have to recognize that 'the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.' Today I join the Church in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism. Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world."

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