



St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director Message on Racism

June 2020

Friends & Supporters:

These past few months, our staff and volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County (SVdP) have been working tirelessly to address the many challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Requests to our Helpline, our Foodbank, and Centro Rendu, have been growing in staggering numbers. Larger numbers of our undocumented neighbors and those serving in the restaurant and hospitality industries have also been coming to SVdP. For these neighbors, having to decide between paying rent or buying food has caused severe hardships and distress.

As if COVID-19 was not enough to unsettle the peace of mind within our shared humanity, the death of George Floyd, executed in the public eye of the social media arena, has sent shockwaves across our collective conscience.

“There is a crack in the foundation of our country” and it’s at the root of the racial divide that exists in the United States and in our churches. These words from Catholic Bishop Rev. Edward K. Braxton, reminds us that institutional racism is real in America. We have been summoned by the spirit of our founders to live by a new set of values and to take personal ownership for creating a more compassionate society.

We are called to be the change we want to see in our communities, the voice of love and compassion in a broken society, healers and deliverers of hope, to free the oppressed, to empower our neighbors and make room at the table, so they can teach, lead and reach their full potential.

SVdP stands in solidarity and relationship with Black, Indigenous and all People of Color (BIPOC) as we listen and work together and with others in our community to denounce and dismantle discriminatory practices that perpetuate inequality, create division, and to undue institutional racism.

In Solidarity,

Mirya Muñoz-Roach
Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County