



Thursday, April 30, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

These past days have prompted a range of emotions by many of our sisters and brothers who live, work, and pray in Baltimore, the very heart of our Archdiocese. The untimely death of Freddie Gray and the tragic circumstances surrounding it have led to feelings of anger, confusion, frustration, and profound sadness and prompted critically important questions deserving of our collective prayer and response.

Indeed, there are questions about Freddie's death and the injuries that led to it, just as there are many questions about how our community can best respond to the long-standing issues that fueled much of the response we've witnessed in subsequent days. With our partners in education, healthcare, and charitable service, our local Church is asking these questions at all levels, as we examine our current service to the community and how we might more effectively address those issues that threaten to undermine the human dignity of some of God's most worthy children.

As we continue the process of discerning these important questions, I ask that you offer the gift of your prayers, regardless of where you may live: your heartfelt prayers. To that end, we have created a special [prayer for peace](#) and I ask you to consider praying a rosary for the intention of peace and justice. Further, many of our parishes and schools are offering prayer services and [opportunities](#) for people who wish to demonstrate their support through prayer. I especially invite you to attend a special Mass for peace this Sunday, May 3rd at 10:45 a.m. at historic St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, located at 1546 N. Fremont Ave. in West Baltimore.

And the power of your prayers is magnified by acts of goodness and mercy committed on behalf of others. Catholic parishes and schools in Baltimore seek to address the material, spiritual, and

educational needs of residents there, while Catholic Charities has programs dedicated to addressing underlying issues such as poverty, joblessness, and poor housing. Should you wish to find out about volunteer opportunities or other ways to support these and other works, please visit www.archbalt.org.

A [video statement](#) I issued earlier this week further discusses the Church's response at this difficult time in the life of our community. I hope that it is helpful to you as you pray about how we can come together as people of faith to support those who are suffering in our City.

May the Lord of all mercies grant peace in our City and hope to those who live each day in despair.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ William E. Lori".

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore



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