

Statement from Glastonbury Abbey:

We are a community of Catholic Benedictine monks with a large group of laymen and laywomen who pray and work with us. With Pope Leo and many American Catholic Bishops, we are concerned about the state of morality, or lack of it, in the public domain. The very soul of our nation is being wounded by many Catholics, Christians, and other citizens embracing non-Christian and non-American ways.

We are disturbed by the loss of civility in our speech. People are dismissed with unflattering names and are easily named to be criminals, or at least stupid and inhuman people to be looked down on. There is a terrible disregard for the truth, and lies prevail that refuse to face the reality of what has been done in our name.

We are disturbed by the violence and disregard that many experience. The first tenet of Catholic Social Teaching is to respect every human being, whether we agree with that person or not. The person may be an immigrant, a prisoner, a protestor. Adults and children alike are being abducted, jailed, beaten, and even killed. There are ways to deal justly with possible criminals and law-breakers that respect the dignity and basic human rights of a person.

We are disturbed by the ways that families are uprooted, children separated from parents, people sent to other countries without due process. People live in fear. Children are not going to school. Individuals are afraid to go to church. Those incarcerated are deprived of religious and spiritual help.

In short, there is a moral sickness in our corporate soul. As Catholics we believe in the necessity of the common good as a guiding principle. Rich and poor, black and white, native born and foreign immigrant, citizens and resident aliens, government officials and our poorest neighbors all fall under the system of laws and just treatment of all people.

May we all wake up to what is happening. May our loving God open our hearts and minds "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah: 6:8)

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