August 9, 2015

Archbishop Carlson has asked the Archdiocese of St. Louis to mark the one year anniversary of the shooting death of Michael Brown with prayers for peace and justice. The Sunday liturgy will have that focus as we seek God’s help to work for a more just and peace-filled society.

I ask each of us consider what we can do, as individuals and as a faith community, to bring about healing and reconciliation. As followers of Christ, we know that life and hope can emerge from suffering and death. This is an important moment for St. Louis. The work of justice is everyone’s responsibility.

This great task must be rooted and grounded in love. I invite everyone to use the prayer below adapted from the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a guide for us move forward.

*Lord,* we implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which give respect to the life and dignity of all people. Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence. Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.

Fr. Dan White, S.J.