



*From the Office of the President*

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**A Charlottesville Prayer for Our Nation  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

O God of the whole human family,  
Hear our prayer!  
You in whose image we each are made,  
Hear our cry!

Once again,  
the horrible fragmentation of our country is laid bare  
in the distressing events that have taken place  
in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Violent expressions of bigotry splinter us again  
as a machine extends the reach of the human fist in lashing out.  
The idolatrous sin of white supremacy  
has snuffed another life, gravely injured others  
and stunned us who witness another chapter of  
our nation's oldest wounds unfolding.

Keep us from the temptation to be deaf and numb to this reality:  
Hate is organizing in groups across the land,  
seeking support and justification and strength.  
O God, let us not add to its force by our silence or our fear!  
Make us as bold in justice grounded in grace  
as others are bold in perpetuating the ancient lie.

There is no healing  
until the great sin is honestly named among us.  
There is no forgiveness  
until we admit our complicity in acts and systems of oppression.

Lead us all to liberation, O God of the Exodus.  
Help us each with the hard truths of our prejudice and deep-seated angers.  
For no nation is great that harbors and sustains its shadows  
and claims them as virtue.  
No people is blessed who hides behind a flag  
while uttering slander and propagating hate.  
Grant us courage to act in the moment that is always  
NOW.



We pray to You. Do not turn away. AMEN.

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.  
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