



*Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.*

May 6, 2020

Timothy Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
452 Madison Ave.  
New York, New York 10022

Your Excellency:

We write to you in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, recognizing the devastating effect this crisis is having on the people of New York, throughout the United States and around the world. Please be assured that we are praying for all who are affected, for you and for our leaders at every level of our Church and government as we work together to address this critical health issue.

As your sisters, we write to express our concern over your recent praise of President Trump during an April 26 interview with Fox News and at the special welcome you gave prior to the liturgy celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We are dismayed by your praise for President Trump considering how his administration's policies on a number of issues directly contradict Catholic Social Teaching and challenge the core values we hold as people of faith.

First, President Trump's immigration policy directly contradicts what the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops espouses in its document, *Welcoming the Stranger*. Second, as we prepare to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, President Trump continues to deny the existence of human-induced climate change and to ignore its impact upon our global community. Finally, President Trump's economic policies directly harm the poor while our Church, rooted in the Gospel, gives preferential option to the poor and vulnerable. For you to publicly praise him and his actions on several occasions is both disheartening and misleading to the faithful.

This is a critical year in the United States as we approach the 2020 election. As Church leaders, we must carefully consider the impact of our public voice as we articulate critical issues the American people are facing. Many look to us for guidance on how to discern these issues within the context of their faith. We encourage you and your brother bishops to courageously stand with the message of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching as you speak about these issues. As a Catholic religious community, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are committed to prayerfully discerning how to best use our public voice in the coming months as we prepare to exercise faithful citizenship. We encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Leadership Council of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

  
Margaret Chapman, IHM

  
Marianne Gaynor, IHM

  
Mary Jane Herb, IHM

  
Patricia McCluskey, IHM

  
Ellen Rinke, IHM