



Sisters of Divine Providence

Marie de la Roche Province

Making God's Providence Visible

9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101-2713
412-931-5241

May 26, 2020

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

Dear Cardinal Dolan,

We write to you as the Provincial Leadership Team and the Ketteler Legacy for Justice Committee of the Sisters of Divine Providence. As your sisters in Christ and as daughters of our Founder, Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, we are compelled to request that you modify your adulation of our current President.

Our Founder left a legacy of working toward achieving social justice. His entire life was dedicated to securing justice for the marginalized, promoting cultural and racial understanding, educating young girls, and upholding the status of women in society. Equality and social equanimity were major aims of his life's work. Both through his extensive writings and in his daily actions, he modeled traits that mirror the Spirit of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In a series of sermons in Advent 1848, he spoke words which speak eloquently and forcefully to our own times:

“To cure social evils, it is not enough to provide more food and clothing for a few poor or to send a few dollars more to our favorite charity. That is the smallest part of our task. What is urgent is that we heal the enormous division that exists in our society, a deep-seated resentment between rich and poor.”

We fear that your public pronouncements give the impression that the Catholic Church in America supports a person whose words and deeds fall far short of even a basic standard of social justice. We pray that you educate and encourage our leaders toward a similar imitation of Christ. With all due respect, we implore you to reconsider.

May courage and wisdom be yours all along your path.

Sincerely,

Provincial Leadership Team

Sr. Michele Bisbey

Sr. Alice Marie Lyon

Sr. Donna Marie Gribschaw

Sr. Ana Lydia Sonera Matos

Ketteler Legacy for Justice Committee:

Sr. Carol Stenger

Sr. Carmen Gonzalez Arias

Sr. Bertshabe Palomino Montalvo

Linda Hoefflin, Associate

Sr. Betty Sundry

Pat Montgomery, Associate