



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2021

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Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski Issues Statement Following Guilty Verdict in Trial of Derek Chauvin, Calls for Work to Eradicate Racism and Uphold Human Dignity

ST. LOUIS – Following the announcement of the verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski has issued the following statement addressing the people of Greater St. Louis:

“The jury’s finding of Derek Chauvin as guilty is a decision that affirms the dignity of all human life as given to us by God at the moment of our conception, and which remains with us until death. The dignity of a human life is not conditional, as God’s love for us is not conditional—and so each person is, by their human nature, deserving of dignity, respect, and life until natural death.

We acknowledge that the verdict in this trial does not erase the pain we have all felt as we witnessed someone needlessly die in such an inhumane manner. It also does not eradicate the sin of racism in our community, nation and world. The murder of George Floyd is only one example of the effects of this sin. If we do not continue taking peaceful action to end racism, we can only expect to see more of these tragic effects that hurt all of humanity.

We all need to continue to work together – civil and religious leaders, families, activists, young and old – to continue to fight for equal and just treatment of all of our brothers and sisters. Let us do so with prayer, in peace, and with the hope that we have in Jesus Christ—that he will bring us to healing.”

- **Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski**
Archbishop of St Louis

More information and resources from the Archdiocese of St. Louis in addressing racism can be found at archstl.org/openwideourhearts.

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