

May 20, 2020

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

Dear Cardinal Dolan,

We write to you as the Congregational Leadership Team and the Social Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. We are aware of the tremendous responsibility you carry especially during this time when the Coronavirus is ravaging New York.

We feel we must express our profound disappointment at the reports about your phone call with President Donald Trump and your appearance on Fox News on April 27, 2020. You stated your praise for the President and called him a "gentleman." During a reelection year, this could be construed as encouraging Catholics to vote for Donald Trump in the next election.

As a 501© 3 not-for-profit corporation, we are prohibited from endorsing any candidate for office. We inform our Sisters of this responsibility. It is assumed that the same rules apply to the Archdiocese of New York.

At our 26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter we developed and approved a document called "Deepest Desires" to direct our future as a religious Congregation. One of the desires is to:

"Speak to the Church and to the world from our common understanding that there be no outcasts in our experience of life on this earth."

During this White House administration there has been an explosive reaction directed at those who are considered as outcasts in our country such as:

- Muslims from countries that are banned from entering the United States
- The ill treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers who travel through Mexico and those children who feel terrorized when they are separated from their mothers and fathers and detained in cages and other facilities
- Those who live in poverty caused by the increased income inequality that has escalated to new levels during this coronavirus pandemic.

As we observe the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si," we are reminded of the many protections for our good earth that have been reversed during this administration. Therefore, we ask you to reconsider your statements and call attention to those issues that are not in keeping with Catholic Social Teaching and the Scriptures.