



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

# Statement

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Bishop issues statement on Charlottesville violence**

Bishop Richard Pates issued the following statement in response to the Charlottesville, Virginia violence.

“I make my own the following statement of Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued in reaction to the racist violence in Charlottesville. I do so with full recollection of the fruitful prayer and dialogue which we experienced on Sept. 9, 2016 in a gathering addressing racism and violence in Des Moines. May our community remain intensely committed to justice, peace and a cooperative spirit among all races, all God’s children.”

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, of Galveston-Houston issued the following statement Aug. 12 in response to the violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"On behalf of the bishops of the United States, I join leaders from around the nation in condemning the violence and hatred that have now led to one death and multiple injuries in Charlottesville, Virginia. We offer our prayers for the family and loved ones of the person who was killed and for all those who have been injured. We join our voices to all those calling for calm.

“The abhorrent acts of hatred on display in Charlottesville are an attack on the unity of our nation and therefore summon us all to fervent prayer and peaceful action. The bishops stand with all who are oppressed by evil ideology and entrust all who suffer to the prayers of St. Peter Claver as we approach his feast day. We also stand ready to work with all people of goodwill for an end to racial violence and for the building of peace in our communities.

“Last year a Task Force of our Bishops Conference under Archbishop Wilton Gregory proposed prayers and resources to work for unity and harmony in our country and in our Church. I am encouraging the bishops to continue that work especially as the Feast of St. Peter Claver approaches.”

*The Catholic Diocese of Des Moines is comprised of 80 parishes in the 23 counties of central and southwest Iowa.*