



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

12 January 2021
Feast of Aelred of Rievaulx

**The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM,
Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church,
Calls on Mr. Trump to Resign**

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The insurrection that resulted in the storming of the Capitol and the death of at least five persons, instigated by the incendiary and false insistence on the part of Mr. Trump and his allies that the November election was invalid, is not simply a body blow to American democracy. It's also a mockery of cherished Christian values.

The physical and verbal violence that crescendoed on January 6 is antithetical to the fundamental principles of Catholic social teaching: respect for human dignity and human rights, the complementarity of personal and social responsibilities in pursuit of the common good, and a solidarity with all persons expressed in love, compassion, service, and justice.

Mr. Trump's inflammatory and hateful rhetoric, which launched his campaign and continued right up to last week's debacle; his apparent aversion to truth-telling; his vilification of anyone who disagrees with or displeases him; his willingness to abuse presidential prerogative by engaging in strong arm tactics; his prioritizing his personal interests over the nation's; and, finally, his direct responsibility for the shameful insurrection, demonstrate his unfitness to be president.

Accordingly, I call upon Mr. Trump to immediately resign for the good of the nation he has so damaged.

I also invite my fellow Christians, regardless of denomination, to pray that the threat of domestic violence over the next few days dissipates, that people of good will join together to nonviolently resist those who would subvert democracy, and that all of us allow ourselves to be guided by the better angels of our nature rather than anger and fear.

Today is the feast of the twelfth-century saint Aelred of Rievaulx, author of a treatise in which he argued that friendship is a sacrament of God's love. Friendship, he believed, creates a bond of dialogue, reciprocity, and self-giving that reflects the love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. My prayer is that our nation can begin to unite in the friendship that Aelred saw as essential to individual well-being, social stability, and communion with the Creator.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Lucey, FCM".

Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop