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Diocesan Task Force on Social Justice

April 5, 2025 Demonstration

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, thousands of our neighbors turned out at the State Capitol to demonstrate against the atrocities being engaged in by the current administration in Washington, D.C., which include, but are not limited to: targeting legal immigrants, taking away funding from education, healthcare, veterans, and even gutting our national intelligence services. Why do we come out together? Does it do any good?

Perhaps we can think of it this way. In this atomized, social media-dominated society that we live in, where actual community and relationships are sorely lacking, actions such as this serve many important purposes. Among them are an opportunity to get together face-to-face, and to stand up for the values that have traditionally been deemed American as well as those deemed Christian.

It's an opportunity to feel that we are not alone and terrified, which is what those who consolidate power seek to make us feel. It's a chance to reach out to the wider community and show that many of us are willing to stand up and say "no," and that efforts to undermine the most vulnerable among us do not reflect our values, and we will not abide by it.

The rainbow coalition of people who appeared and stood in the hot sun for hours on April 5, as honking cars passed by, many with upside down American flags, signifying a nation in distress, presented a powerful witness to the timeless qualities of mercy, compassion and justice. While it's desirable to organize and focus on one or two discrete issues, the current situation does not lend itself to that, because the assaults on fundamental principles are being made against so many so quickly.

But what we can and are doing is to coalesce as a community, to plan and organize together, and to continue the fight, realizing that this is a long haul. Your Diocesan Task Force on Social Justice is doing exactly that. It is facilitating an interfaith and inter-organizational effort to do three things around the issue of immigration.

First: Prepare our willing churches to serve as sanctuaries; which inevitably includes the possibility of civil disobedience and criminal penalties to stand up for what is right.

Second: Have a number of people communicate with our local media with opinion pieces and issue statements to keep all of these matters in the public eye.

Third: Continue to organize actions and demonstrations like the one on April 5.

As our bishop has counseled us, it is crucial that we engage in these efforts from a position of love and a willingness to forgive. It is important that we not demonize the opposing side. For indeed, only love can cast out hate. We need to address this entire issue from the perspective of Christ, who admonishes us to be willing to suffer for our convictions and for the Gospel. I think we are up to it. What do you think?