



*For Immediate Release*  
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
February 02, 2026

*"Show your love for the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."  
(Deuteronomy 10:19)*

It is with great sadness and deep pastoral concern that we, as leaders of the Order of Saint Augustine, call for an end to the violence in the streets of Minneapolis and for a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect. We are mindful of the duty of law enforcement officials to keep our nation and cities safe and secure; however, we cannot remain silent in the face of policies, decisions and tactics which lead our people to live in fear and threaten the constitutional order on which our nation is founded.

We echo the words of our brother Pope Leo XIV who reminds us all that "peace is built on respect for people." St. Augustine himself spoke similar words to his people in North Africa sixteen centuries ago when faced with their own crisis of migration: "There is no one in the human race to whom we do not owe love." (Augustine, Letter 130.6.13)

For us, as followers of Christ, love demands special care for the stranger and the immigrant, for the orphan and the widow and the vulnerable. As Augustinians, as pastors, and as citizens of this country, we plead with our elected officials, our law enforcement professionals, and our fellow citizens to turn away from violence and to embrace dialogue, and to replace tactics that create fear in favor of policies and policing that respect and protect the universal dignity inherent in each and every human person.

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