



Embargoed until

April 3, 2018

Kelly Donaghy

419-214-4944 or 419-343-0207

kdonaghy@toledodiocese.org

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas Statement

On the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4th marks 50 years since Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an American Baptist minister and civil rights activist, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. On this day, as we reflect on his life and work, we need to ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to build a culture of love, respect and peace to which he was so dedicated and to which the Gospel calls each one of us.

The foundation of Dr. King's message was transmitted through non-violent means to spread the Word and protest injustice. To quote Dr. King, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

As we commemorate Dr. King, I call on all people of good will to pray and act for peace and the eradication of violence from our hearts, our homes, our society, our country and our world. Today, let's commit to make our own the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him..... I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Sadly, after 50 years, much of the violence, racism and injustice addressed by Dr. King still exists. In loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and in loving our neighbors as ourselves, we will respect each person as created in the image and likeness of God. In that way, we will best honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

For more on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., please see the [recent statement](#) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee Statement on the Life and Work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of which Bishop Daniel E. Thomas is a member.

The Diocese of Toledo, established April 15, 1910, encompasses 8,222 square miles in a mixture of urban and rural areas and spans 19 counties across Northwest Ohio, serving approximately 320,000 Catholics in 123 parishes. The Diocese includes Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties.

[Like the Diocese of Toledo on Facebook](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#) | [Follow on Instagram](#)

www.toledodiocese.org