We Must Do More
Michelle Just, President & CEO
And the Beatitudes Campus Leadership Team

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” —Letter from Martin Luther King in a Birmingham, Alabama jail, April 16, 1963

We are experiencing the deplorable practice of racism that is gripping our country and dividing us. We have witnessed painful and heartbreaking racist incidents—Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and recently George Floyd, among too many others. We are pained and deeply appalled by their deaths. These events are tragic and have shaken our community to our very core.

The events in Minneapolis last week and the COVID-19 crisis highlight the inequities that Black, elderly and other diverse communities have and continue to face every day. COVID-19 robs people of their health, instills fear and in many cases ends lives. Racism, bigotry and hatred do the same, robbing lives while instilling fear and anger. These unspeakable tragedies that have occurred have strengthened our determination to do more, as individuals, as an organization and as a community. It is imperative that all of us do away with the legacy of bias, prejudice and racism.

Michelle Just, president and CEO, says, “As a white female, I cannot begin to imagine what the Black community is experiencing. While I can empathize with what it must be like to be a Black person in America, I have not walked in those shoes. But I can commit that Beatitudes Campus will do all we can to support our diverse communities and foster a culture within our organization that deeply values and respects diversity and inclusion.”

We have already started strengthening our culture.

Earlier last year, we revisited the Promise Statement for the campus. This Promise Statement is not just a paragraph full of words. It is a reflection of what we, as a campus, promise all who work and live here and all who are part of our community. It is our deep commitment that we welcome and value our diverse communities.

Holy Communion

Rev. Peggy Roberts, Sr. VP of Spiritual Life

This pandemic has certainly changed much of our lives including how we worship and receive Holy Communion. While at this time we are not yet able to resume in person gatherings, we are now offering an alternative way to share in this means of grace. This temporary practice will allow you to participate in Holy Communion from your home.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, call Chaplain Peggy at X16109. Chaplains Peggy and Andrew will distribute communion at the door of your apartment on Wednesdays but you must call to make an appointment. Safety precautions will be observed so we ask that you come to the door wearing a mask and keep a six foot distance.

Those wanting to receive Holy Communion consecrated by Fr. Joe O’Donnell must call Chaplain Peggy at X16109 by Friday, June 12. On Sunday, June 14 a Eucharistic Minister will distribute communion at the door of your apartment (safety precautions will be observed). You may receive only a Spiritual Blessing if you prefer.

We eagerly await the day when we shall gather together in each other’s presence to be blessed by the presence of the Lord in worship!

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all people, no matter their background, their skin color, their ethnicity, their philosophical beliefs or non-beliefs or their gender or gender identity. Last year, we started an intentional and thoughtful effort to strengthen our community to be a place where diverse perspectives and experiences are welcomed and respected and where our community of staff and residents are encouraged to discuss diversity and inclusion. We stated our commitment that Beatitudes Campus be a beacon of light in valuing all our similarities, differences and complexities of experiences. The leadership team and I stand firm on that pledge. We must do more.

As an organization, we are pledging to act. We will intensify our ongoing efforts to improve relations between all members of our communities where we live and where we work. We pledge to do more, as individuals and as an organization, in our community.

Everywhere we go and in everything we do, we define the character of Beatitudes Campus. We will lead by our actions. Our core values and promise statement guide not only our behavior in our community, but they also extend to every area of our lives. As an organization and as individuals, we have a responsibility to help find solutions to make our communities better for every citizen.

During this entire coronavirus pandemic, there was a silver lining that we, as a community and a nation experienced. We all are working together as a community. We have seen first-hand people coming together and reigniting the meaning of community throughout the past three months. Sadly, this most recent tragedy in Minneapolis reminds us of the ugly reality that we are still experiencing humanity’s worst. We, the Beatitudes Campus leadership team, challenge each of you, in your own way, to lead by example and to use your voice to condemn racism and the systemic inequality. The time is now for us to come together, to support one another and through our partnership, begin to heal and make change.

I’d like to close with a prayer from Beatitudes Campus Chaplain Andrew Moore:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, that we may work together for justice and peace.

May it be so.

May God bless all of you,

Michelle Just, President and CEO
Along with the Beatitudes Campus Leadership Team—Rod Bailey, Allen Bloch, Mitch Bradshaw, Valerie Cantrell, Cheryl Knupp, Rev. David Ragan, Rev. Peggy Roberts, Barbara Wood