



Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America “ICAROS”

941 North Blossom Road, Elma, New York 14059

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past few months, the country has witnessed the rise of a movement to confront and change systemic racism within our society. The fact that this movement has resonated and spread throughout the world, while in the midst of a pandemic, is evidence of the great passion that surrounds it.

Our ethnic history is flooded with stories of immigration and success, but also social inequality and discrimination. Our ancestors, both men and women, fought hard for social and religious equality by supporting each other and others who faced injustice.

In the 1960's, a time of great civil unrest and volatility; Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma. Similarly, this past June, we also witnessed Archbishop Elpidophoros marching in peaceful non-violent protest in Brooklyn, with citizens supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. His Eminence later said:

“I came here to Brooklyn today in order to stand in solidarity with my fellow sisters and brothers whose rights have been sorely abused. This was a peaceful protest, one without violence of any kind, and I thank all of those involved, because violence begets only more violence.”



photo references: The Greek USA Reporter

This solidarity and support for those who seek equality has been instilled within us from our own experiences, providing us with a great sense of empathy for those seeking justice today. Being one of the oldest Hellenic organizations in the world, the Supreme Lodge is proud to have been contacted by members supporting this movement and supporting equality for all.

As we reflect on these times we must also remember the great challenges that many of our parents and grandparents experienced not so long ago. We should stand in unity and support of social justice and call for an end to inequality whenever and wherever we witness it in our own lives. Let our personal commitment to change be a lifelong journey.

Below are photos provided by members of the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America participating in non-violent protests within their own communities. A special thanks to Kalli Siringas for her support and assistance in this message. Sister Siringas has great passion and compassion for the world and Pan-Icarian Brotherhood.



The following links are references for your review and education on the movement:

Educating Resources for Parents:

[PBS Talking to Children Authentically about Race and Racism](#)

[10 Tips for Teaching & Talking to Kids About Race](#)

[Anti-Racism Books for Kids](#)

[Resource Roundup For Kids on Race](#)

Podcasts:

[1619 \(New York Times](#)

[About Race](#)

[Code Switch \(NPR\)](#)

[Intersectionality Matters! hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw](#)