



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Special Message from ANCC Presiding Bishop George R. Lucey, FCM, on the Las Vegas Shooting

Once again, the nation has witnessed a mass shooting, this one at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. According to the *New York Times*, it is the 521st such tragedy in 477 days.

The carnage this time is the worst in modern American history.

This kind of murderous violence, repeated again and again in our culture, bewilders our minds and horrifies our spirits. Along with the psalmist (13:1-2), our grief compels us to lift our faces heavenwards and cry, "How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?"

Yet we are a people of hope, grounded in the welcome fact that the world has been made new by the Resurrection of the Lord, that violence and hatred cannot have the final word, and that as followers of the Prince of Peace, we are called to act in great and small ways to bring peace to our communities.

As we prepare for the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, let us join our sisters and brothers in praying and acting for peace and an end to violence.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.