



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Pastoral Letter from Presiding Bishop George Lucey, FCM on the Tree of Life Synagogue Tragedy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

28 October 2018

In the name + of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Once again it is my sad duty as Presiding Bishop of the American National Catholic Church to express my shock and sorrow at another senseless mass shooting. On Saturday, October 27, a gunman entered the Tree of Life or *L'Simcha* synagogue in Pittsburgh and opened fire on the congregants gathered there for worship, killing eleven sons and daughters of the Covenant and wounding many more. May Father Abraham hug them to his bosom and stand with them before *ha-Shem*.

I am immensely saddened by this violence perpetrated upon our Jewish sisters and brothers as they celebrated *Shabbat*. The violent loss of life is always an unspeakable tragedy, but even more so when it occurs in houses dedicated to God. I am also bitterly disappointed by the current administration's failure to encourage, through exhortation, executive order, and policy, an end to the violence shattering this nation.

As Christians, we are people of hope. We have faith in the vision of the prophets and the promise of Jesus Christ that one day all tears will be wiped away, all brokenness will be repaired, and all who are lost will return home. God willing, our faith will embolden us to step into the breach created by the administration's refusal to encourage civility, dialogue, and empathy, and to speak and act in peaceful and loving ways.

Please join me in praying that the anger infecting this nation will soon lessen. And please join me and people of good will everywhere in saying *kaddish* for our sisters and brothers who yesterday became hate's latest victims as they worshipped the God of mercy and love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Lucey, FCM".

The Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop