

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, we are reflecting with great sadness and despair on the tragic loss of life that occurred early Sunday morning in Orlando, Florida at the hands of a violent attacker. Please pray for the eternal rest of those who lost their lives in this tragedy and for the consolation and healing of their loved ones and also those injured in the attack. We place our pain before God and we unite our suffering with the Lord Jesus who shed his blood for us on the cross.

For those of us in San Bernardino this is especially painful because we also experienced the trauma of an act of public violence in our community not so long ago, at the Inland Regional Center. In that sense, we offer our prayers and our tears in solidarity with the victims of this attack, their loved ones, the Diocese of Orlando and the City, itself. Because of the circumstances of this attack, we also make clear our condemnation of discriminatory violence against those who are gay and lesbian, and we offer our prayers to that community.

We believe in the dignity and worth of every human life and we decry every attack on that dignity that happens in acts of hatred and violence. As we discern our response to this attack as Catholics, let us resolve ourselves to be an unrelenting voice for peace and non-violence in every realm of our society. The evil that is present in these events demands nothing less from us.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes