



Statement by Bishop Michael F. Olson Regarding Terrorist Attacks in Paris and the Plight of Refugees

The horrific terrorist attacks recently committed in Paris and also in the Middle East strain our understanding as to why such violence is perpetrated. These gravely unjust actions prompt fear and anger in our hearts. Pope Francis stressed in response to the attacks that “the way of violence and hatred does not resolve the problems of humanity.” The Pope went on to say that whoever uses God’s name to justify terrorism is guilty of blasphemy.

We cannot allow the evil actions of a few to cloud our Catholic call to help refugees who are in desperate need of our help because they have already been wounded by violence and terrorism. It is imperative for us not to succumb to fear and anger by abdicating our responsibility to enact a reasonable response that both protects the security of our community and also places the safety of refugees as most important because of their dire situation.

I join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a call for prudent and merciful actions. You can read the call by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration here: <http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-157.cfm>