



Bishop Michael F. Olson Responds to Sutherland Springs Shooting

I would like to reaffirm what my brother bishops of Texas and I said earlier regarding the horrible and violent crime perpetrated against Christians at prayer at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs in Sutherland Springs, Texas. “We must pray for wisdom and courage, to do what we can to stand against violence and for life. With charity and peace in our hearts, we must firmly resolve to prevent senseless violence. Otherwise, we make a mockery of our professed desire to build a culture of life and to renounce this world’s culture of death.”

I am asking Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Worth and people of good will to join with me in praying for those killed and wounded and their surviving families, their friends and neighbors and for the perpetrator’s family traumatized by this sinful act of hatred. Let’s pray also for the first responders and those who came to their aid in the face of this grave injustice.

Besides prayer, I’d also ask for our concerted and renewed efforts to promote greater respect for the integrity of law as necessary for the common good and peace of our society. As Blessed Pope Paul VI stated on the World Day of Peace on January 1, 1972, “If you want peace, work for justice.” We must not let violent and evil actions deter us from our moral obligation and right to gather as people of faith to worship God in peace and charity for all.

+ Most Reverend Michael F. Olson
Bishop of Fort Worth