



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

Special Message from Fr. Boland, regarding the July 4 tragedy

Dear Parishioners,

The tragic mass shooting in Highland Park yesterday has been another moment of profound grief as the result of gun violence. I know many people who go to that parade and they along with countless others will struggle with memories of panic and horror for the rest of their lives.

First of all we must hold everyone affected by this tragedy in prayer. Our Lord was a victim of violence himself and walks with us during these moments of the violent loss of life. We pray for the countless heroes, first responders and bystanders who put the needs of others before themselves. These acts of courage and compassion will never be forgotten. We must pray for children who are increasingly exposed to a world of senseless, unpredictable violence as a result of weapons.

Recently the President signed into law a bipartisan bill that addresses inadequacies in gun laws. This measure is a step in the right direction but in many ways is just the first step in a much more complicated process of addressing systemic causes that contribute to gun violence. High powered assault weapons have no place in a civil society. As the Cardinal said yesterday, the right to life is a far more precious right than the right to possess weapons whose only purpose is to kill large numbers of people.

Cities in other parts of the world, several times the size of the Chicagoland area have a fraction of the gun violence we endure. We are approaching 350 mass shootings in the United States since the first of the year. This is immoral and intolerable.

I know there are no simple solutions, but we can't just keep avoiding the necessary remedies that result in a safer more humane way of living together. No one law is going to solve the gun violence epidemic in the United State. Each measure though makes us stronger and stronger as a country in which the "pursuit of happiness" becomes more real.

Dear Lord, you are the source of peace! Please bestow the wisdom we need to build a community devoted to the sacredness of life, from conception to the end of our earthly journey. Amen.

Respectfully,

Fr. Jerry Boland

07/05/22