



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Vicki Cessna, Executive Director

269-903-0163 (direct); 269-929-8298 (cell)

[vcessna@diokzoo.org](mailto:vcessna@diokzoo.org)

[www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)

## Bishop Bradley calls for prayers in wake of tragedy

**June 8, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.):** The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, released the following statement in the wake of the tragedy involving a group of bicyclists:

“We are deeply saddened by the tragic accident last evening involving a group of bicyclists from our community, five of whom lost their lives and four of whom have suffered serious injuries. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the five innocent people whose lives were ended much too soon, as well as the four other individuals who continue fighting for their lives.

“Our beloved community of Kalamazoo has once again suffered a devastating and shocking loss, and more than ever we are called to draw upon the strength and goodwill of everyone in this caring, vibrant community. Amidst this tragedy, we ask for God’s grace to help us remain strong and to be united in our prayers and support for all as we grieve with one another.

“We are grateful to, and inspired by, the dedication of our First Responders who arrived so quickly to care for the victims. May we hold the family and friends of those involved close to our hearts and in our fervent prayers.”

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools.  
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