



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

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Bishop Bradley releases statement after violent and tragic deaths; will celebrate Mass on Monday, July 11 for victims and their families

July 8, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.) Bishop Paul J. Bradley has released the following statement in light of this week's tragic and violent deaths:

"We have experienced great darkness in our country over these last three days. Sadly, we mourn once again the tragic loss of lives due to violence. The two recent shooting deaths of young black men by police officers in Baton Rouge and Falcon Heights, Minn. (Minneapolis suburb), and the deliberate killing of five police officers with several others in critical condition last evening in Dallas, are disturbing and senseless tragedies. These increasingly frequent acts of violence, hatred and death are turning us against one another in our own country.

"Let us be united in our prayers for all the victims and their families. But let us also be united as Americans, and even more importantly, as sisters and brothers in the Family of God. Every life is precious; all human life must be protected. Let us particularly support our police officers who dedicate their lives to protecting us and safeguarding all our constitutionally guaranteed and God-given rights, including the basic right to free speech.

"Let us turn away from this darkness and evil, and return to live in the Light of God's love for all."

Bishop Bradley will celebrate a special Mass of Remembrance on Monday, July 11, 2016 at the 12:10 p.m. Mass in St. Augustine Cathedral to pray for all the victims and their families, and to pray for peace and an end to violence in our country and our world. All are welcome.

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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 has grown to include 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools.