



A message to the faithful of the archdiocese from Archbishop Michael Jackels

5 August 2019, 8:54 PM

Archbishop reflects on recent mass shootings

The mind does not know what to think about the recent instances of gun violence and mass shootings, one tripping over yet another.

Again, at Gilroy? And again, at El Paso? And then again, at Dayton?

The heart though is tugged toward prayer.

Prayer for the happy repose of the souls who, while doing ordinary things or while celebrating, were caught unawares and sent to their Maker.

Eternal life grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Prayer for consolation of family members and friends who were shocked and horrified to hear the news that should be delivered to no one: your loved one has been murdered.

Our Father, who art in heaven, give us bread, to comfort us, forgive us, for our own hatred, lead us not into temptation, like vengeance, but deliver us from evil.

Pray for our beloved country to find healing from whatever moves a shooter to commit such a crime and sin: Racism? Untreated brain health issues?

Hail Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Pray too that no one of us will ever become accustomed to such violence, or blame the victim, or be sympathetic to the perpetrator, or fail to do something, anything.

O God, have mercy on us, and help us in our need.

Michael Jackels

Archbishop of Dubuque
