



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

Vicki Cessna, Executive Director
Office of Communications&Public Affairs
269-903-0163; 269-929-8298
vcessna@diokzoo.org
www.diokzoo.org

Bishop Bradley urges prayers for peace in aftermath of Berrien County Courthouse shooting

July 12, 2016 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.) Bishop Paul J. Bradley has released the following statement in the aftermath of the Berrien County shooting that occurred yesterday in St. Joseph, Mich.:

“It is with a heavy heart that once again we are faced with the tragic event of the senseless and violent loss of life that happened yesterday at the Berrien County Courthouse. We commend the souls of those whose lives were so violently ended to our loving God asking that He grant them eternal rest, and we offer our most sincere sympathy and prayers to their families.

“We need to look no further than ourselves to help change what is becoming a growingly unsafe society and an unpredictable way of life. I ask all people of goodwill to look into our own hearts, take care of our neighbors, and reach out to those who feel marginalized and unjustly treated. Every life matters; all life is precious. At the same time, let us not allow discouragement and fear to keep us from holding firmly to the hope grounded by faith to confidently move forward to affect positive change in our world.

“The prayerful thoughts of our entire Diocese are with the entire St. Joseph community, including our own parish of St. Joseph, situated right across from the Courthouse, which provided their parish facilities to be a re-uniting site for those dealing with the aftermath of this tragedy.

“Let us continue to pray for peace and to work together toward solutions to end violence in our world, society, community and in our own hearts.”

Very Rev. Robert Creagan, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, will be participating in the community prayer service today at 2 p.m. which begins at the Berrien County Courthouse.

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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.