



Bishop White's Statement following the Louisville Mass Shooting

In the midst of life, we are in death.

In the midst of Easter Week, Good Fridays still occur.

We mourn. We are shocked, frustrated, and angry. We feel robbed of Easter joy, but not of Easter hope. With us is our Risen Lord, the Hope of the World, the Hope of Louisville.

On the day of his Resurrection, Jesus said, Be not afraid. Thus, even at the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Our community, along with over 140 other communities in this country so far in 2023, is devastated by a mass murder. We are called amidst the chaos of violence to apostolic service, compassion, forgiveness, and witnessing to the new life Jesus bestows.

The Gospels all speak of the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of his passion. We, too, bear wounds in our hands, body, mind, and heart, and we also bear the cross of Holy Baptism signed on our foreheads.

For now, we live as both wounded people and as those raised to new life, indeed we must for the sake of all in this city and for all who know the anguish of mass killings and seek hope. Like Mary Magdalene at dawn that first Easter Day, we witness to the Resurrection with tears on our face.

Let the emotions we feel now and in the days ahead give us energy and resolve. We will persist in embodying hope. We will never stop advocating for common sense solutions to the scourge of violence caused by false idols which have triggers.

We stand in solidarity with and pray for the families and friends of those who died, for those recovering from physical injuries, for healing in body and in mind for survivors, co-workers, first responders, chaplains, and medical teams.

Even at the grave, we make our song: Alleluia. The tragedy we are in the midst of is not greater than the hope of the Risen Christ who is walking with us. Let us take the time we need to pray and process. And then, once refreshed with Living Water and fed with the Bread of Life, go forth to mend the broken and be peacemakers.

In the midst of Easter Week, Good Fridays still occur. Then Easter dawns again. Death no longer has the final word.

Be not afraid.