



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
Office of the Bishop

October 31, 2018

Dearest Friends,

I am heartbroken and saddened by the horrific shooting that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Please know that the Catholic community stands in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters. An attack on one community of faith is an attack on all communities of faith. I pray for the victims of this callous act of violence and for the grieving families.¹

While this evil act has shattered innocent lives, it has also strengthened our resolve to condemn all acts of violence and hate. Let us call on all families, communities and people from every race, religion, and creed to build a culture of mutual respect for all people regardless of our differences. Let us focus on our common humanity as children of God and put an end to violence in all its forms. We should offer no safe harbor for hatred and intolerance in our communities, and I pray to God to give us the strength and will to quell our nation's divisive rhetoric.

We pray for you and with you. May God's comfort and love be a source of peace as you move forward to find healing.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

