



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



JUNE 19, 2016

It's impossible even to imagine the degree of suffering among the families of the victims in last week's massacre in Orlando. Let us pray, pray, pray.... for their comfort and that this may never happen again.

We should also use our intellect to understand the causes and motives of the shooting. Until we have all of the facts, we can't know with certainty all of what was in the mind of the killer. But we do know he was filled with hatred toward his victims. Based on his own statement of allegiance to the Islamic State, we know he justified his action with an ideology that says God blesses the killing of infidels.

This is a lie. God never commands us to kill the innocent. As Pope Francis says often, *"the name of God is mercy"*.

You and I can't stop every hateful action, but we can work together to build a civilization of love. We begin by rejecting every form of hatred. In this case, the killer targeted people at a gay club. We know he also expressed previously his hatred toward black people, Jews, and Christians. None of this is acceptable.

Our children need to hear, over and over again, in our families and in our churches, that we reject every type of violence, bigotry, and prejudice. And we treat people with respect, even people with whom we disagree.

By doing so, we might just be saving our nation from another tragedy.

God bless
Father Jonathan

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