



## “FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

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**JULY 24, 2016**

The last few weeks, both domestically and around the world, have been marked with violence, terrorism, and hatred. From the devastating terrorist attack on the streets of Nice, France, to the eight police officers gunned down in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.....we are seeing things we have never seen before.

You will hear many politicians and even religious leaders call these actions "senseless". I think they are trying to say that there can be no justification for such actions. But I don't think the word "senseless" is an acceptable description.

"Senseless" suggests that we can't understand why anyone would do this. But if we use our God-given gift of reason, and if we look to our faith, we can understand why and how someone would do these things. The human heart was made for LOVE. But if we allow ourselves to be taken over by sin, if we allow our minds to be manipulated by false ideology, our very hearts that were made for LOVE, can become a den of HATRED. This hatred comes in different forms. Recently, we see it in the form of radical Islamic ideology, racism, and anti-police violence.

You and I can't change everything in this world, but we can work to make our hearts love more and we can teach our young people to do the same.

This week I went to our local NYPD police precinct to thank them for working for our safety. And I prayed with them. Of course, as humans, they too can make mistakes, but we need to support them as they seek to maintain the rule of law.

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The very fabric of our free society depends on it.  
Let us pray for our nation and neighborhood, and let's do our part to create a  
civilization of LOVE.

God bless,  
**Father Jonathan**