



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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**NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

It's hard to believe we need to reflect again on a mass shooting in our country, this time in a church in Texas. I used this space just a few weeks ago to express sadness, angst, and, of course, hope in the Resurrection from the dead, after the terrible shooting in Las Vegas.

This week I was asked to go to Las Vegas and be with some of the people who were affected by that shooting. What sadness! What heartbreak! What a waste of precious humanity! It was a blessing to be with these wonderful people in their mourning.

Likewise, we mourn over this week's shooting in Texas. It hurts us especially since the evil act was carried out in a church, a place where we people go to worship the Author of Life.

The one common denominator in many of these mass shootings is probably mental illness. As a community we need to work hard to identify and help everyone who is suffering from this disease. This is our sacred duty as Christians, both for the sake of the person with the mental illness as well as for those whom their actions can affect.

We have some good services in the neighborhood we can recommend if anyone knows someone who is not getting proper help.

On a practical note, I am going to instruct our ushers to ask people not to bring in backpacks or other large bags during masses. This will help give people a sense of greater security as we gather to worship the Lord.

**God Bless, Father Jonathan**

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