



**Statement from**  
**The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain**  
**Bishop of Sioux Falls**  
**June 13, 2016**  
*In response to the terrorist attacks in Orlando, FL*

On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls I join with all who have expressed deep sadness and concern at the horrible, senseless and inhumane attack on innocent life in Orlando. Our prayers are with the victims and their families.

Our prayers are also with the police, firefighters and emergency responders who must deal with the harsh realities of this tragedy. They do so out of duty, but their response is inspired by concern for others. We also pray for the medical personnel who attend to those injured and whose lives are still in jeopardy. They all go the extra mile Jesus called us to do.

Let us continue to pray for respect for the dignity of every person gifted by God with life. May we also pray for peace in the world, in our country and especially in our hearts.

May our loving and merciful God console and strengthen all who are affected both now and in the days ahead.