

**A Prayer Vigil for Peace  
In a Time of Hate and Violence**



**PEACE**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016**

**7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**The Kazista Center Chapel**

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Community**

## A Prayer Vigil for Peace in a Time of Hate and Violence

**Leader:** We are called to act with love and justice. Following the horrific massacre of 49 people in Orlando, Cardinal Wuerl called on us to "stand together with all people of good will in making another impassioned appeal for peace and security in our communities and throughout the world. Let us also glorify God by responding to evil with love." Especially in this time of tragedy, all people of faith need to have the courage and love to assure the LGBTQ community, the Latino community, and the Muslim community that we stand with them in solidarity. May our faith unite us in care for one another.

**Entrance Song:** Let us begin our prayer with the song: **We are Called** (David Haas)

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the Kingdom, To live in the freedom of the city of God!

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another;  
To walk humbly with God!*

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

*Refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love!

**Leader:** Let us pray with the words of Bishop John Noonan, Diocese of Orlando:

All life is sacred as each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God. We cherish each person as a child of God.

We pray for victims of violence and terror...for their families and friends...and all those affected by such acts against God's love.

We pray ... that God's mercy and love will be upon us as we seek healing and consolation.

Every time we look at the Cross, we see how God has forgiven us in Christ

With a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; love never fails.

We dry the tears of those who weep and mourn as gently as Veronica wiped the Lord's bleeding face on the Via Dolorosa.

May the peace of Christ dwell within our hearts. Amen.

**First Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians, 3:23-28**

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God** (Gather Hymnal #23)

**Gospel Reading: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 5:2-11 (The Beatitudes)**

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Silence (5 minutes)**



## **Prayer of the Faithful**

Let Us Pray:

1. We remember those killed in Orlando, and cherish the gift of our lives and the gift of others in our lives, praying for Your protection.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer

2. We hold in our hearts the 53 survivors of the massacre and their families, as well as all the first responders, medical personnel and Good Samaritans who helped ensure their survival, praying for their well-being.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer.

3. We reaffirm our commitment with Pope Francis to address the causes of such tragedy, including easy access to deadly weapons, praying that we will act as the gospel requires.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer.

4. We reflect on the contribution of homophobic attitudes and statements to the treatment of LGBTQ people, praying that we may speak clearly about the role these attitudes and statements play in portraying people as less than human and deserving of punishment.

*Response:* Lord, Hear our prayer

5. We stand in solidarity with our children and with all parents and loved ones of LGBTQ people as we remember those lost and those in pain, praying for the courage to grow in our ability to love and advocate for all of God's children.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer

6. We seek to act as partners on the path of freedom, taking down each stifling wall as we open doors of welcome, praying that You will bring hope and joy to all.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer.

7. We acknowledge those deprived of freedom and all who are oppressed because of what they believe or what they are, praying that You will rescue them.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer.

## **Our Father**

### **Closing Prayer: Prayer of St. Francis**

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

Oh, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

**Benediction:** May the Lord who heals us in our afflictions, touch us in our violent world, bless us and be with us always.

**Closing Song: Leader:** Please join in singing **We Are Many Parts**, Marty Haugen, (Gather Hymnal #727).

**Refrain:** We are many parts, we are all one body,  
And the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the spirit of love make us one indeed;  
One, the love that we share, one our hope in despair,  
One the cross that we bear.

God of all, we look to you, we would be your servants true,  
Let us be your love to all the world.

**Refrain:**

So my pain is pain for you, in your joy is my joy, too;  
All is brought together in the Lord.

**Refrain:**

All you seekers, great and small, seek the greatest gift of all;  
if you love, then you will know the Lord.

**Refrain:**