



The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Bishop Stika statement on church shooting

Calls for diligence and awareness of evil and sin

As members of the Catholic community, our hearts go out to the victims and families tragically impacted by last night's unspeakable shooting incident at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Nine of our sisters and brothers, including the church's pastor, lost their lives.

The fact that this horrific act took place during a Bible study class inside a church makes this even harder to comprehend. We offer our prayers for the souls of those who lost their lives, and we extend our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

In 2008, East Tennessee experienced a similar tragedy when two lives were lost in a shooting at a Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville. In the United States, we have been witness to, and victims of, tragic shootings at schools and movie theaters.

These senseless acts remind us to be diligent and aware of evil and sin in places that we don't expect to experience it. I pray that God guides all of us to a better understanding of each other and to respect for a peaceful life.

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