



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2016

Media Contact:

Marie Kenyon, Director, Peace & Justice Commission

314.792.7062

mariekenyon@archstl.org

Post-election Statement of the Peace & Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

ST. LOUIS – “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” – Matthew 22: 37-40

A contentious and often mean-spirited campaign season in our country has been reportedly followed by several hundred incidents of violence, intimidation, damage to property and businesses. While some of our brothers and sisters in Christ rejoiced at the outcome of the election, others have responded with intense fear about their safety and the well-being of their families, friends, and loved ones. Our archdiocese has not been immune to either the incidents of hate or the palpable sense of fear that have gripped other parts of the country.

As Catholics, we believe not only in the unfailing and universal love of God, but also in our call to be reflections of that love for the world. We must condemn in the strongest possible terms any and all acts of hate, violence and intimidation as incompatible with our Christian faith and with the principles of equality and liberty that animate our democracy. We stand with all people of faith and good will in denouncing such hate, and we remind the faithful of our call to love our neighbors, even—and perhaps especially—when we disagree with them.

This election has surfaced deep divisions in our nation along political, social, and economic lines. As we work for peace and justice, we would do well to listen more intently and with greater compassion to those whose views are different from our own. However, we must never be afraid to note the reality of evil in our world and to work to meet its darkness with light. We pray that God will continue to bless and keep all of His people and that we may be blessings to one another.

#CatholicSTL