

Asian and Pacific Islander Catholic Groups' Message on Discrimination and Racism Against Asian Americans

The deadly shootings in the greater Atlanta area in the past week took away the lives of eight people including 6 women of Asian descent. As pastoral leaders within the Asian and Pacific Island Catholic communities, we are deeply saddened to know about this tragic news and we offer our prayers for the deceased and comfort for their families and friends. We strongly stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters during this time of hostility and violence targeting the Asian community in many parts of the country.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs, Bishop Oscar Solis issued a [statement](#) in which he says, "As bishops, we decry any kind of hatred and violence, particularly based on race, ethnicity, or sex." In May of last year, three bishop chairmen offered a [joint statement](#) expressing, "We call on Catholics, fellow Christians and all people of good will to help stop all racially motivated discriminatory actions and attitudes, for they are attacks against human life and dignity and are contrary to Gospel values."

Together with our shepherds, let us be mindful of and turn to the fundamental truth that, "because all humans share a common origin, they are all brothers and sisters, all equally made in the image of God. When this truth is ignored, the consequence is prejudice and fear of the other, and—all too often—hatred" ([Open wide Our Hearts](#), USCCB 2018).

Over the past year as the COVID 19 pandemic raged on, there has been increased reports of verbal abuse and physical attacks against many Asians. Regrettably, hate crimes against Asians are underreported. As events unfolded, we realize that many of these incidences sadly turned into acts of violence and even death. Hatred, discrimination and violence have no place in our society and anywhere else.

We call on communities to engage in peaceful dialogue at the local and national levels to address prejudice and anti-Asian bias. We stand for the peaceful co-existence of all peoples, we pray for compassion and love, and work towards healing and unity.

As Holy Mother Church celebrates the Paschal Solemnity of Jesus Christ—his suffering, death, and resurrection, we place our hope and trust in a loving and merciful God who gave His only son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem all of us from sin and death.

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