

Knights of Peter Claver

Established November 7, 1909
Incorporated July 12, 1911 in Mobile, Alabama

"Onward" is our
War Cry



"Trust in God"
our Password

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PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF CONCERN AND URGENCY

*Congressman Jerry Nadler recently stated "Our country has witnessed senseless killing after senseless killing!" The time has come to take a stand. During the "Save our Children: Stop the Gun Violence" Public Meeting held as a part of the 106th Annual Senior National Convention of the Knights of Peter Claver Inc. in Lombard, Illinois (July 15-20, 2022) the following statement was prepared to speak out against this pattern of senselessness disregard for life, and to **demand that our national leaders take immediate action:***

In 2020, there were over 45,000 gun-related deaths in the United States. Gun violence is the leading cause of death among children, teens, and young adults under the age of 25. Black males are 20 times more likely to be victims of gun homicide.

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary is an international Catholic fraternal organization with roughly four-hundred and eight (408) units across the contiguous United States as well as a unit in Columbia, South America. **In keeping with the tenor of our social justice pillar of the Dignity of Black Lives, our Noble Order expresses our profound outrage and concern regarding the lack of focused legislation needed to combat this violence currently afflicting our country.**

Over the past several years, our country has endured an unprecedented spate of violence related to mass shootings. The loss of innocent lives through gun violence is an epidemic that has negatively impacted our families, communities, and the entire country. It is past time for our legislative leaders to work together in order to **create legislation which addresses the purchasing of assault weapons and the societal problems associated with gun violence.**

We are calling for federal legislation to ban assault weapons and semi-automatic weapons. These types of weapons should not be available to the general public. **Allowing average citizens, the opportunity to purchase military style assault weapons to attack other citizens is a paradigm of a culture which challenges our pro-life belief that all life is sacred, from conception until natural death.** Therefore, we beseech the leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to immediately pass legislation restricting the sale and use of these weapons; and we urge our membership to do the same. We are pro-life and gun control is truly and succinctly pro-life. It is time that we act!

It is no longer acceptable to just express our thoughts and prayers when something horrific happens, we must act now, to prevent future incidents. We must formulate an effective strategy to create more impactful regulations and guidelines, especially related to the purchase of assault weapons. We can prevent future mass shootings - this is no longer a debatable matter. We understand that this is a time of great challenge and upheaval, and many may be afraid to express these views for fear of retaliation by those who do not share our values, yet we faithfully continue to trust in the holy scripture. **"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me..." Now is the time, before more innocent lives are lost and our country descends further into a nightmare of chaos that is irrefutably and irreversibly broken.**
