

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**



### **10 lives forever lost. 13 families forever changed.**

This past week in Buffalo, New York 10 lives were taken and 3 additional people shot, by a person engulfed by the evil spirit of racism and hatred.

We pray for all victims and survivors impacted by the sin of racism. We must even pray that those entrapped by this sinful nature, be released from its oppressing hand. On today, we especially lift in prayer the families and friends of our 10 departed brothers and sisters. We pray that God's limitless hand will bring much-needed comfort, protection, and love as they face understandably challenging and difficult days. We pray for the strength and speedy recoveries of the 3 injured survivors.

While the vast majority easily see and understand how horrific this act of evilness is, too few acknowledge and accept the everyday contributing factors that keep leading to these tragic outcomes.

Racism is not pro-life. Racism is not Christian. Racism is not of God. Racism and hatred are tools used by the Devil in an attempt to separate the People of God from His Love. God did not create us to be superior or inferior; nor master or slave to one another. He created us in his image and likeness to love and be loved by one another.

We condemn the evil and racist attacks that occurred in last week's shooting of innocent Black Americans simply buying groceries. We pray for unity, love, peace, and understanding. We condemn the thoughts and ideologies that encourage horrific and sinful actions against God's children. We pray that God's unconditional, unquestionable, and unending love fill our hearts - replacing any and all dehumanizing thoughts and actions that disrespects the sanctity of life and the love we should have for one another. We condemn all harmful and hateful racist thoughts and actions.

WE PRAY FOR HEALING.



The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary is the world's oldest and largest historically Black Catholic Lay organization. It was founded November 7, 1909 in Mobile, Alabama. Membership is open to Catholics in good standing with the Catholic Church.