

archbishop@catholicaoc.org 513.263.6612

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Yesterday's horrific news of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas shakes us to our core and reminds us once again of the fragility of human life. This senseless, heartbreaking tragedy reinforces the desperate need for conversion to a culture of life in our country, one that respects the inherent dignity and sacredness of every human being from conception to natural death. I join my fellow U.S. Catholic bishops in sharing the following statement:

"There have been too many school shootings, too much killing of the innocent. Our Catholic faith calls us to pray for those who have died and to bind the wounds of others, and we join our prayers along with the community in Uvalde and Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller. As we do so, each of us also needs to search our souls for ways that we can do more to understand this epidemic of evil and violence and implore our elected officials to help us take action."

God alone is the Author and Lord of life. The intentional taking of innocent human life is intrinsically evil. I implore everyone of faith to join in prayer for the victims, their family members and their loved ones. May we, the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, together petition our Blessed Mother to intercede for them so that they might know the peace and healing of Jesus, her Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr

Archbishop of Cincinnati

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