



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton, Ohio Mass Shooting, August 4, 2019

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are deeply saddened over the killing of nine and the injury of 27 of our fellow Daytonians as well as the people who were killed and injured in El Paso, Texas on August 3.

We grieve with our neighbors and with the entire country over the numerous senseless tragedies such as these, which are born out of hatred, fear and despair. Indeed, we believe that the hate-filled rhetoric and the racist ideologies that are spoken or supported in various forms by our country's leaders, give license to and help to fuel the violence which has become all too commonplace.

We call upon our leaders to honor our democracy and our nation's values, and to be servant leaders - steadfastly facilitating the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all people of our grand, diverse and multifaceted American family.

We Sisters of the Precious Blood strengthen our resolve to counter and overcome the negative influences in our culture that result in this violence and to demand sensible legislation that works for the good of all people, not for the powerful few. Specifically, we demand the ban of high capacity weapons and magazines for non-military use. We call for universal background checks and mandatory waiting periods prior to the purchase of firearms. We also support the Gun Violence Prevention Research Acts in Congress.

We will not accept mass shootings as the new normal. This trend will be reversed as we Americans demand responsible and cooperative action from legislators, and denounce hate, bigotry, racism and all forms of intolerance. We ask people to commit to prayer, accompanied by action, by speaking with or writing state and national legislators and community organizations. We can be the light in our often-dark world by uniting our voices firmly as one people and giving our legislators no other choice than to put the welfare of the people first.

We believe that each person is precious in God's eyes, even those who commit acts of violence. As Daytonians, El Pasoans and so many others have been demonstrating, let's continue to show our care and concern for our neighbors, especially those who are on the fringes – whether they are in our schools, neighborhoods, workplaces or organizations. In doing this, together we build a more peaceful and loving society where the power of love, not hate, is triumphant.

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Sisters of the
Precious Blood