



Catholic Apostolic Church in North America



www.cacina.org

199 North Circle, Warrenton, VA 20816
1-800-603-0644 x700 or stephens44@me.com

August 4, 2019

To: The people of God in the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America, and our ecumenical partners

From: The College of Bishops, Catholic Apostolic Church in North America

The College of Bishops of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America is united in desperate prayer for God's loving comfort to be with the people of El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, as they, and our entire nation, grieve the horrible murder and wounding of God's precious people in the El Paso and Dayton Communities by mass shooters. We believe that God weeps and is also angry that, once again, God's precious people have fallen dead in the face of our government leaders' failure to act on sensible gun control.

Psalm 147:3 tells us that God heals the broken hearted and heals their wounds. Matthew 11:28-30 tells us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." We take God's Word in scripture seriously, and as apostolic successors of the ministry of Jesus, we clothe ourselves in the yoke of meekness and mildness so that those who labor and are burdened may come to us for rest.

However, we also proclaim the anger of God as exhibited by our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who has told us that God does not accept nor tolerate the injustice of God's people. Matthew 21:12-13 says, "Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all those engaged in selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. He said to them, 'It is written: My house shall be a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves.'" Additionally, the Apostle Paul calls the Church and all people to unity when he says in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Therefore, we, as successors of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, call on all people of God to speak out in compassion, and righteous anger, for the following:

1. Acceptance and affirmation of people of different cultures, traditions, faiths, and ways of life that exhibit the value of life and love.
2. Expression of righteous indignation through verbal and written communication to elected officials from the lowest to the highest level of government.

3. Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to love God and neighbor as the greatest commandment; this includes our immigrant, homeless, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, black, brown, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, atheist, agnostic, disabled, neighbors; the list goes on of those who are oppressed and should receive support.
4. Vote – to ensure our nation has a President and Congress that truly leads us toward unity and wholeness rather than racism, xenophobia, hate, and division.

This is written as a pastoral directive to the people of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America from the College of Bishops, and an invitation to our ecumenical brothers and sisters to join us in a bold pastoral proclamation to take action for the greater good of God's people.

God's blessings be upon you and your loved ones,

The Most Rev. Ronald Stephens
Presiding Bishop

The College of Bishops:

The Most Rev. Francisco Betancourt, FCR
Bishop-elect Anthony Green
The Most Rev. Carl Purvenas-Smith, OSB
The Most Rev. Anthony Santore
The Most Rev. Willard Schultz
The Most Rev. Ronald Stephens
The Most Rev. Michael Theogene
The Rev. Vincent Treglio, OSF