



Office of the President

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The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D.
Archbishop for the Military Services
President

October 2, 2024

Dear Friends and Partners in dialogue in the Jewish community,

The 7th of October will mark the first anniversary of the Hamas attack on the State of Israel in which some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed. The trauma of that day—the deadliest for the Jewish people since the Shoah—continues for Israelis and for the Jewish community around the world, who cry out for the return of the hostages who remain in captivity and who struggle with the dramatic rise of antisemitic incidents worldwide.

Jewish tradition teaches that “whoever destroys a life, it is as if they have destroyed an entire world, and whoever saves a life, it is as if they have saved an entire world” (Talmud Yerushalmi, Sanhedrin 4:9). The horrific loss of life in this attack and its aftermath, as well as the spike in crimes of hate here in the U.S. and abroad, is a source of great sorrow to us as Catholics.

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and together with my fellow Catholics across the United States, I want to offer my heartfelt prayers for the Jewish community at this difficult moment. This anniversary comes just after Rosh Hashanah, the “birthday of the world” in Jewish tradition. A new birth is usually an occasion for joy, offering hope for the future. This new year finds the hearts of many filled with anguish, in the Holy Land and around the world.

The Book of Psalms reminds us that “the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirit is crushed” (Ps. 34:19). Please be assured of my prayers and the prayers of the Catholic community, especially for those who lost their lives, for those who grieve their loss, and for all those who continue to be held hostage and who suffer. The Catholic community stands with you at a time of great anguish and trauma, and we commit ourselves to work for peace and an end to all forms of antisemitism.

May the new year bring an end to the violence in the Holy Land and the possibility of true peace.

Sincerely,

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops