



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in the USA

The JPIC Office of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters of the USA and Caribbean's Response on the Florida Parkland High School Shooting and Gun Violence:

We again find ourselves faced with the tragic and senseless loss of life following the shooting in Parkland, Florida. To all of the victims and their loved ones, we extend our love and prayers. We unite our prayers with millions of others who are mourning and praying for them and with those in Orlando, Las Vegas, Newtown, Columbine and countless other cities who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

This year, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters are focused on "communion with others". We realize that violence in any way shatters communion and therefore we want to join hands with others to prevent violence.

There is much to mourn, but mourning is not enough. The gun violence must stop. We understand it is not the gun which creates the carnage but the user. We ask everyone to speak up and take responsibility for the future.

Contact your elected officials and ask them to support legislation that:

- > requires universal background checks and mandatory waiting period for all gun purchases
- > bans civilian ownership of high capacity weapons and magazines, and bump stocks.
- > makes gun trafficking a federal crime

We applaud and support the young people of Parkland for taking up the issue of gun violence prevention. We support their efforts to advocate for legislation that will save lives.

In this season of Lent, let us pray for grace to show us how, through prayer, advocacy and action, we can make clear to our elected representatives that they must vote in the interests of all Americans, including law-abiding gun owners, in passing life-saving, common sense gun policies.