

## How Long, O Lord, How Long?

Photo: ABC7 New York



Each of the beautiful people pictured here, gunned down in Buffalo and Uvalde, was a child of God.

Our Church has long called for a total **ban on assault weapons** and measures that control the sale and use of firearms. We should still demand these of our elected officials.

But perhaps first we should just sit in silence and ask forgiveness for accepting the violence that permeates our society and popular culture in so many ways.

"Don't tell me that guns aren't the problem, people are. I'm sick of hearing it. The darkness first takes our children who then kill our children, using the guns that are easier to obtain than aspirin. We sacralize death's instruments and then are surprised that death uses them."

- Bishop Daniel E. Flores, Diocese of Brownsville, Texas

Photo: San Antonio Express-News



"The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life. Our children have rights too. And our elected officials have a moral duty to protect them."

-Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archdiocese of Chicago



Through an initiative entitled the **Laudato Si Platform**, Pope Francis and the Vatican are inviting Catholic families, institutions and communities around the world to “learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology.”

### TELL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS YOU WANT THEM TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

*From the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:*

“The U.S. bishops are encouraged by the historic \$555 billion suite of climate investment policies proposed in Congress, including tax incentives to support existing and emerging technologies in clean energy, resilience investments focused on protecting low-income and minority communities, and incentives to decarbonize the economy. Such investments are necessary if the US is to reach its current Paris Agreement goals to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030... Ask Congress to safeguard all climate and environmental investments.”

Tell your Congressional reps why investments in climate change action matter to you at [this link](#).



## Join our Diocesan Laudato Si' Action Platform Network



As we put the Laudato Si' Action Platform into *action*, we need you to be an ally in your parish! First, please fill out the short survey by clicking [this link](#) and telling us about what your parish's environmental efforts. Whether your parish is just starting out or has been involved for years, please join in.

We'll provide help with setting both short-term and long-term goals and completing a parish self-assessment. Join with other Catholics from around the diocese in this important work of the Church.

First meeting: **Tuesday June 14 at 12:00pm**, via Zoom, facilitated by Marcus Ebenhoe, Director of Advocacy & Parish Social Ministry at Catholic Charities Family & Community Services in Rochester. Get the link to the meeting by contacting [Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org](mailto:Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org)



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