



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

OCTOBER 8, 2017

I know that all of us are still feeling the sadness, disgust, and perhaps even fear in the wake of the Las Vegas massacre this week. So many of our questions are still unanswered about what drove this man to do the unthinkable. Here are a few points that have been at the center of my own prayer and reflection:

- Life is precious and fragile.
- Every single day is a grace, not to be taken for granted
- Heaven is God's answer to death; it is open to anyone who accepts God's love
- The human heart is capable of both heroic, sacrificial love and pure evil. In our minds, we can cultivate one or the other.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I have reflected on the great responsibility we have to be attentive to and care for people who may be on the edge of despair of any kind. We don't know if anyone could have intervened in the shooter's life to convince him to stop his plans. We don't know yet what was in his mind. But in most of these cases, the attackers become isolated and filled with anger. Perhaps there are people in our lives today that could be helped before they get to that point of despair. As Christians we are called to love everyone and to seek out and find the lost.

Lord, please have mercy on the souls of the departed in this Las Vegas tragedy. Please comfort their friends and families. And, Lord, please allow us to be your hands and feet to everyone around us that all might experience the hope that comes from encountering your love. **God Bless, Father Jonathan**

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