

# Prayer Against Gun Violence

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we come to you burdened and grieved  
by the evil and destruction of gun violence,  
entrusting to your mercy  
each victim of this horrific crime.

Father of mercies and God of all consolation,  
who console us in our every affliction,  
comfort the families and friends of each victim,  
give solace to grieving communities,  
and bring peace to anxious hearts.

O God, who show a father's care for all,  
pour out your gracious blessing  
on police, medical personnel, leaders,  
and all who are your ministers of mercy,  
bringing them healing and peace in the face of this tragedy.

O God of peace, who are peace itself  
and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp,  
nor a violent mind receive,  
grant to those who are tempted to commit these acts  
repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,  
so that they may return to their senses  
and escape the snare of the devil,  
entrapped by him, for his will.

O God, author and lover of peace,  
defend against every attack those who cry to you,  
so that all who trust in your protection  
may not fear the weapons of any foe.

O God, merciful and strong,  
be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst  
and to wipe away all tears,  
so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children.

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*