

I invite you to join with me on Fridays throughout 2017 to pray for peace. When good people come together in prayer wonderful things happen.

Fr. Mosley, Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## A PRAYER TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Merciful Father, we come to you heavy hearted. We have heard the cries of the slain calling to us. We come remembering lives lost to weapons that have flooded our communities. We come reminded of the many bodies locked in jails and prisons all across this country.

### WE ASK FOR YOUR MERCY

We find ourselves in a broken world – a world in which people hurt other people. Your own life demonstrates how you came from heaven to redeem our lives and our communities. May we be empowered by your Spirit to reverse the conditions that produce young men and women driven to violence and destruction.

### SEND US YOUR SPIRIT

We boldly come to your throne of grace, seeking wisdom to be a people of hope and healing. Help us remember we are all your children, created in your image, connected by a single garment of mutuality and destiny. We condemn gun violence and those who produce weapons of destruction.

### EMBOLDEN OUR ACTIONS

We acknowledge that the pain felt in Newtown is the same pain felt in Chicago. The tears shed in Oak Creek are the same tears shed in Oakland. The lives lost in Tucson are the same lives lost in Camden. The children being buried in Aurora are the same children being buried in Detroit.

### PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

We cry out to you, heal our souls from this scourge of violence. Endow us with courage to seek the peace of the city. Bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our swords and be peacemakers. Protect us from the violence of others, keep us safe from the weapons of hate, and restore us to tranquility and peace.

### LET US BE YOUR UNFAILING LOVE AND PROTECTING EMBRACE

WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.