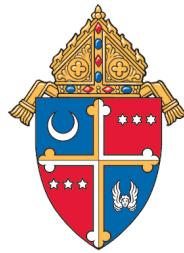


The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

MEDIA ADVISORY

Office of Communications

communications@adw.org | (301) 853-4516 | adw.org | @WashArchdiocese



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CONTACT:

Sean Caine

communications@adw.org

DC Area Faith Leaders Statement on Immigration Enforcement Actions

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti—two U.S. citizens devoted to civic engagement and to caring for their immigrant neighbors—have left communities in Minneapolis and across the nation grieving, shaken, and rightly outraged. Their deaths are a profound moral failure, and they demand our collective attention and response.

As faith leaders in the greater Washington, D.C. region, we affirm the sacred worth of every human life. That commitment includes—and compels us to stand with—immigrants and others who are especially vulnerable in this moment. We condemn without reservation the use of indiscriminate and lethal force against civilians. The actions we have witnessed in recent days represent a grave departure from our nation’s deepest moral commitments and from the values of human dignity, restraint, and accountability that our faith traditions uphold. When the power of the state is exercised without regard for life, justice, or the common good, the foundations of democracy itself are put at risk. We speak out now from a place of deep love for our nation and a growing concern that our own local communities will potentially experience the same loss of life and turmoil we are seeing in Minneapolis.

Renee and Alex were killed while seeking justice for their community. We honor their lives by refusing to look away and by calling, together, for accountability from those entrusted with authority. At this pivotal moment in our nation’s life, we are faced with a choice: whether to allow fear, cruelty, and disorder to define us, or to respond with courage, conscience, and moral resolve. We stand with our neighbors, fellow clergy, and state and local leaders who have called on national authorities to end practices that place people in harm’s way.

Throughout history, people of faith have been called to speak when human dignity is threatened. We believe that call is before us now. Communities in the greater Washington region have already experienced the fear and disruption caused by aggressive enforcement

tactics, including incidents near schools and houses of worship—places that should remain sanctuaries, not sites of intimidation. We will not accept the tearing apart of our neighborhoods or the normalization of dehumanization. We urge government officials at every level to recommit themselves to policies that uphold life, dignity, and the rule of law. And we call on all people of conscience to work together for a society in which every person can walk their streets without fear, and with the knowledge that they are seen, valued, and protected.

Robert Cardinal McElroy
Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde,
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky,
Director of Intergroup Relations & Rabbi-in-Residence,
JCRC of Greater Washington

Behram Panthaki, Head Priest,
The Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan
Washington Inc (ZAMWI)

Romi Sawhney, Executive Director,
Guru Gobind Singh Foundation (GGSF)

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling
Resident Bishop
The Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula Delaware Area
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt
President of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Dr. Sousan Abadian
Executive Director
Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington is home to more than 655,000 Catholics, 140 parishes and 90 Catholic schools, located in Washington, D.C., and five Maryland counties: Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's.