



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org

June 12, 2016  
*Jubilee of Mercy*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again, we must raise our voices to comfort the families and loved ones of a senseless, horrific and preventable tragedy.

For you here today and throughout the whole lesbian and gay community, who are particularly touched by the heinous crimes committed in Orlando, motivated by hate, driven perhaps by mental instability and certainly empowered by a culture of violence, know this: the Archdiocese of Chicago stands with you. I stand with you.

Let our shared grief and our common faith in Jesus, who called the persecuted blessed, unite us so that hatred and intolerance are not allowed to flourish, so that those who suffer mental illness know the support of a compassionate society, so that we find the courage to face forthrightly the falsehood that weapons of combat belong anywhere in the civilian population.

We come together in this time of sorrow, this time of darkness. Yet we walk in the light of solidarity and peace. We walk with the unshakable resolve to change our nation and our world for the better.

With my personal pledge of prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blase J. Cupich".

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

*Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach*  
*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*  
*June 12, 2016, 7:00 PM Mass*