

The Special Litany

“An Affirmation to Stand”

By Bishop Adam J. Richardson

Leader:

Before we grow numb to violence in our nation and in our neighborhoods, before we succumb to our tendency to forget, before we are numbered among the irrelevant; let us raise our voices to affirm that we stand!

People:

1. We stand in the tradition of a prophetic calling, rooted in sacred scriptures; affirmed in our faith tradition; sustained by grace in our personal walk with God.
2. We stand with families still reeling from the savagery of gun violence, in their bereavement, in their pain, grieving for their children. Mothers' Days and Birthdays, and Special Days and anticipated Graduation Days are now bathed in Sorrow.
3. We stand to declare: ENOUGH! Too many of our youths have fallen victim to gun violence; too many guns, too many wounded, too many funerals, too much Hope lost, too much Promise buried.
4. We stand against the interpretation of laws that would justify a shooting, a killing -- shielding assailants with a cloak of immunity -- as unconscionable and indefensible.
5. We stand for justice, peace, right and righteousness at a time when apathy endangers our existence, injustice could potentially rule the day, peace is in jeopardy, right is gray, and righteousness is relative.
6. We stand to say we Care -- about the safety of our communities, about violence as the bane of our humanity, about the crippling menace of poverty; about advocating for the voiceless, about ministering to the hurting, about working to make a positive difference.
7. We stand in the power of our great Faith -- in humility, civility and grace -- to Pray, to Act, to Affirm -- that we stand in the tradition of the prophets to make our voices heard.

(A litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)