

Statement from Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS of San Antonio and Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, of Austin, concerning the serial bombings in central Texas:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families and friends of all those affected by the package explosions which have taken place this month in Austin and San Antonio, the latest of which occurred early this morning. These appalling attacks have killed and injured innocent people, young adults, and children who were in their homes, bicycling on the street, and working at their jobs.

The randomness of these attacks and their increasing frequency are perhaps meant by their perpetrator to spread fear and cause division in our communities. However, as we have seen time and time again, tragedies such as these strengthen our bonds and bring our communities together in prayer and recognition of the sanctity and preciousness of life.

We know that law enforcement agencies are diligently striving to solve these cases and bring those responsible to justice. We place our trust in the Lord, as it states in Joshua, ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’

We ask all people in our dioceses to remain vigilant, and to pray and work for peace.”

### **Prayer for Protection from Violence**

Lord God, your Son was delivered into the hands of his persecutors, yet he prayed for them and overcame hatred with the blood of the Cross. Relieve the sufferings of our brothers and sisters and grant eternal light and peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care.

Keep us safe from acts of violence and restore us to tranquility and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.