



# USFRANCISCANS

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | August 2017

As followers of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of peace, we, the Franciscans Friars of the United States join with the many public and religious leaders and fellow-citizens who have condemned the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA.

We hold that all forms of racism, white supremacy, neo-nazism, xenophobia and hatred are wrong. Because we believe that every person is created by God in love, we also hold that disrespect or diminishment of—or violence against—*anyone* offends not only that person but also the One who created that person.

As Franciscans, we strive to be bridge-builders. To avoid future instances of the tragic violence that tore not only the community of Charlottesville but also the fabric of our nation, we call for a renewed commitment to respectful dialogue by all, whereby our opinions and differences can be shared in constructive and illuminating ways that lead to the possibility of growth and conversion for all. Such dialogue might lead us beyond the overt displays of violence and intolerance into an understanding of the subtler and even unconscious forms of discrimination and intolerance that may still inhabit our hearts as well as our society.

We commit ourselves to the responsibility of respect for and dialogue with all who seem “other” than ourselves. And we pray that all the citizens of our nation will join in striving to attain respect and peace in our communities.

### PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Very Rev. David Gaa, OFM  
*St. Barbara Province*  
*Oakland, California*

Very Rev. James Gannon, OFM  
*Assumption BVM Province*  
*Franklin, Wisconsin*

Very Rev. Kevin Mullen, OFM  
*Holy Name Province*  
*New York, New York*

Very Rev. Robert Campagna, OFM  
*Immaculate Conception Province*  
*New York, New York*

Very Rev. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe Province*  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*

Very Rev. Mark Soehner, OFM  
*St. John the Baptist Province*  
*Cincinnati, Ohio*

Very Rev. Thomas Nairn, OFM  
*Sacred Heart Province*  
*St. Louis, Missouri*