



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, May 28, 2023

### Answering the Call of the Prince of Peace

In the past four months, 14,500 Americans have been killed by firearms, 600 of those were children, and 200 mass shootings have occurred. (314 Action, 5/11/23)

“The gun industry is profiting from these killings and made \$11 billion from producing 13.7 million AR-15s in the ten short years since the Sandy Hook tragedy.

We as a society have experienced the ongoing effects of a culture that glorifies the use of guns, does not prioritize the value of each human life, and often promotes violence. **With each mass shooting we have seen the outrage grow, yet the violence continues.** We as Sisters of Mercy are called to community and to actively demonstrate what it means to live a life of non-violence.

**Non-violence is not passive.** Just and immediate action is needed to end this cycle of misery. The Sisters of Mercy ... have joined with 50 other congregations of women religious in saying individual statements are not enough. **We are stronger together, and we invite others to help create a culture of non-violence.** We urge our leaders to put human lives above political expediency. Authorities must enforce existing gun laws and legislators must enact sensible regulations to restrict access to deadly weapons.” (Sisters of Mercy, 5/9/23)

“In 1994, Congress adopted the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which made it generally ‘unlawful for a person to manufacture, transfer, or possess’ a semiautomatic assault weapon. The law was adopted with a sunset clause, however, and expired in 2004, despite overwhelming public support for its renewal. Thus, semi-automatic, military style weapons that were formerly regulated under federal law are now legal unless banned by state or local law.” (Giffords Law Center)

**“When a federal ban was in effect from 1994-2004, mass shooting-related deaths were 70% less likely to occur.** That means countless lives saved from preventable tragedies. But after Congress let the ban expire in 2004, mass shooting deaths have increased by 347%.” (Sisters of Mercy, 1/25/23)

“Tell your members of Congress to stand up for constituents, for our safety, and against the gun lobby and **bring back the federal assault weapons ban....** It worked in the past with bipartisan consensus and can work again. We need commonsense, impactful action to tackle gun violence. Most Americans agree: Civilians do not need military-grade weaponry.” (MoveOn, 5/8/23)

“There is nothing normal about the levels of gun violence we are seeing, and we refuse to become desensitized to this violence and the toll of human life gun violence continues to cost the American people. Scripture reminds us that every single human being is created in the image of God; every gun death is not a statistic but a loss of a life full of dignity, worth, and promise. The frequency of mass shootings is occurring at a pace that robs us of time and space to grieve and heal. And yet **even as we as people of faith add our prayers and lamentations to so many others, we cannot continue to simply react, pray, and repeat this cycle of death.**” (Sisters of Mercy, 1/25/23)

[Demand that Congress act now to stop the carnage with an effective federal ban on the civilian use of these weapons.](#)