



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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**A Prayer of Lamentation and Trust in the Aftermath
of the Shootings in Aurora, Colorado**

Most Holy God,

To be Your beloved creatures and not You, our loving Creator, means that we do not always understand our suffering, especially when it appears random and senseless.

Yet we take to heart and know in our souls that You created Your children for love and life, community and service together.

We hold up our sisters and brothers this day who are the victims of violence and misguided evil in Aurora. Bless them and bring healing to their families. You, our Creator, never forget those who suffer; You bring comfort and healing through human hands. Just as Your Son, Jesus, reached deeply into the lives of those who knew profound suffering, help us reach out and into the lives of those who endure unwarranted pain. Hold close to Your heart those who have died. May the families of the victims know Your tenderness through the words and hands of friends and neighbors.

Bless the responders to this tragedy. Bless especially the Police and Fire Departments and bless the health care professionals and the hospital staffs who have responded and saved lives, yet live with the loss of those who have died.

You have poured forth into our hearts Your Son's Spirit in whom we cry out Abba, Father; hear Your children this day as we lament our losses and still place our trust in You.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Fr. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J. (2012)