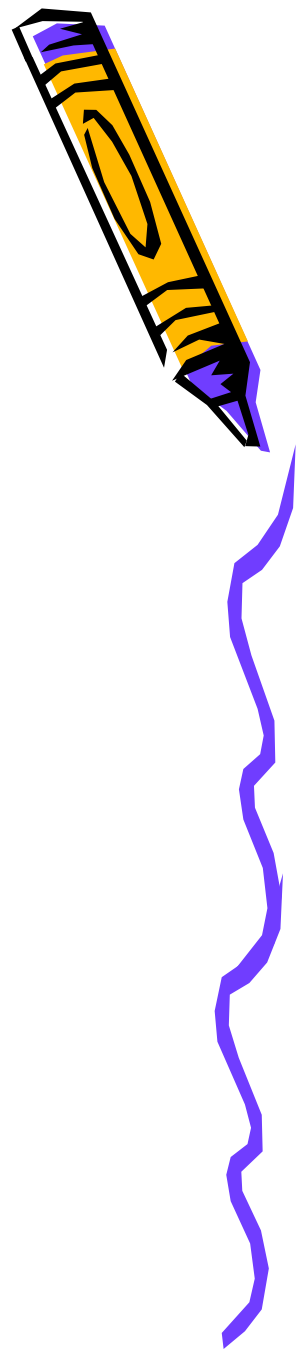


Welcome to G I F T





Sing!



As the flame of faith is
carried, as the torch of
faith is passed,
Reaching 'cross the
generations, each receiving
from the last,

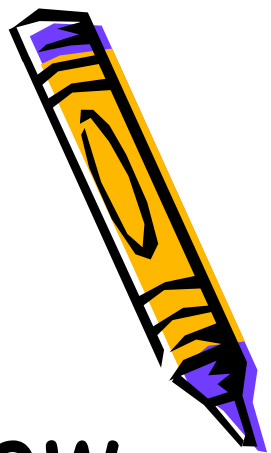


So the promise to God's people
is received, then handed
down,

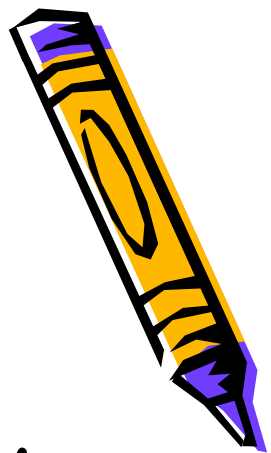
In the light of our baptism,
through our families, faith
is found.



As the seasons spin and follow,
as our stories long endure,
Like an ever-flowing river,
so the covenant is pure.

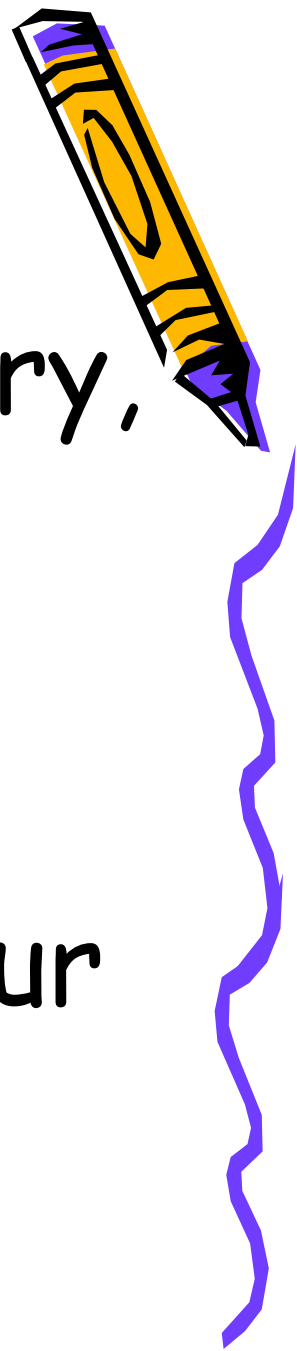


In our span of earthly living,
as the great or as the least,
Still we find in book and table
Christ the Word and Christ
the Feast.



May we learn to tell the story,
keep the flame of faith
ablaze;

May we strive to keep the
Gospel as the center of our
days



As we keep the faithful Spirit
brightly burning, lifted high,
May each generation follow
with Christ's light to
journey by.



Pray

We gather, O God, young and old
and all in between.

Fill us with compassion for all
those around us.

Unite us in solidarity as seekers
of truth, sharers of faith, and
recipients of your love passed
down through all generations.



Give us a spirit of openness so that
all are heard, valued, and
understood.

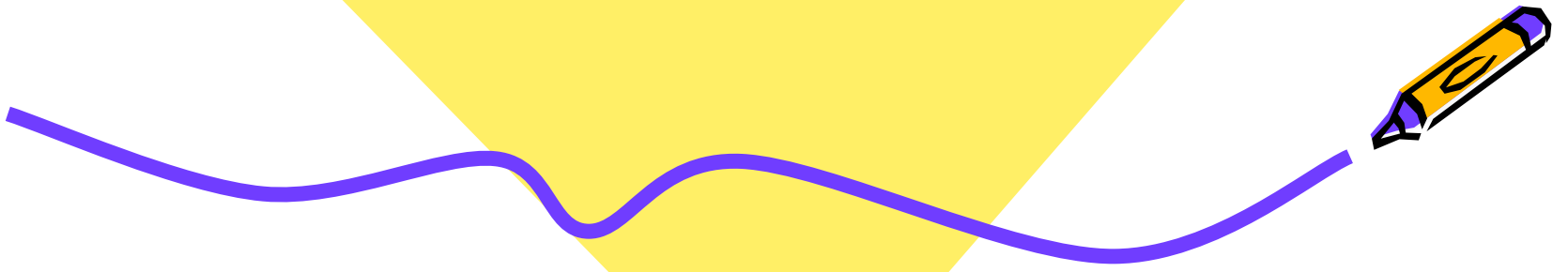
Fill us with hope and courage to
find our path forward, with your
love, with your mercy, and with
your grace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.





Engage



Quiz

1. Guns per U.S. resident?

1.2 for every American resident, far surpassing other countries

2. Gun deaths => homicide?

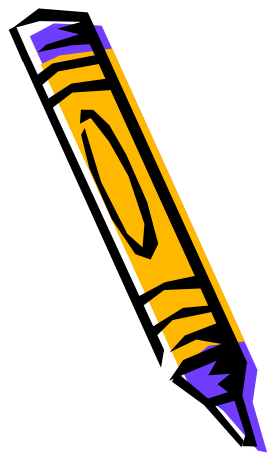
43% homicides,

54% suicides, 3% other

3. Homicides => Guns?

US : 79%,

4% in UK, 13% in Australia, 37% in Canada



4. U.S. world rank on annual gun deaths?

USA is ranked second (37,038). Highest number of annual gun-related deaths is Brazil (49,436), followed by Venezuela, Mexico, India, Colombia, Philippines, & Guatemala.

5. Active Shooter incidents/deaths?

345 / 1000

6. States that ban assault weapons?

Eight - only one outside East Coast



7. Who spends more?

Gun rights

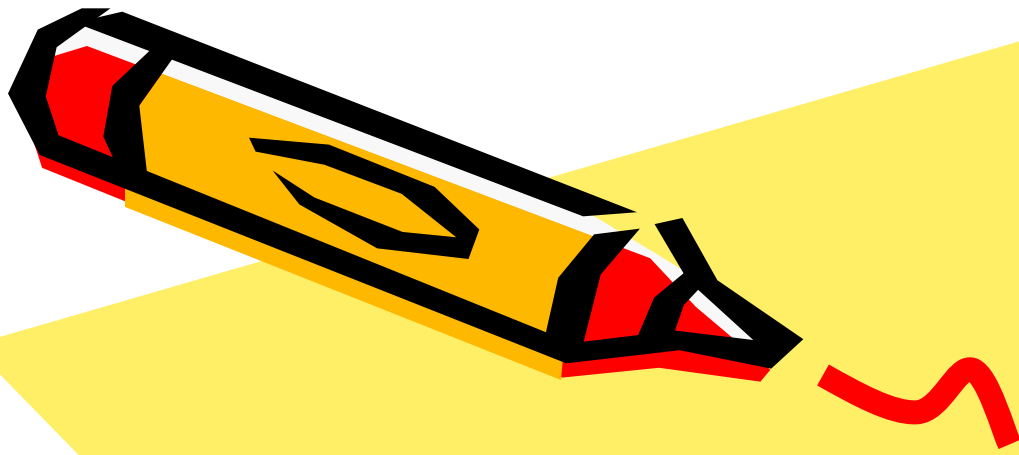
8. How many children shot every day?

22. Five will die. Two are murdered. 17 will survive.

9. Shooting incidents in Portland this year

673 and counting





Confronting Evil

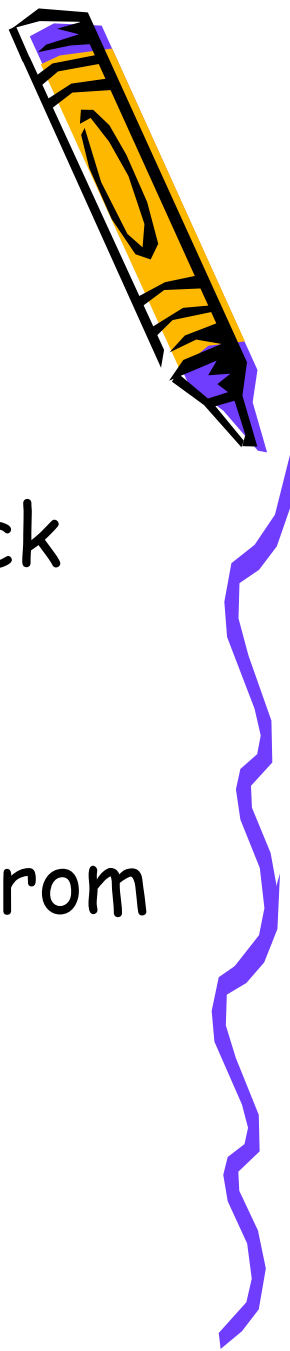
Fr. Jerry Graham, SJ





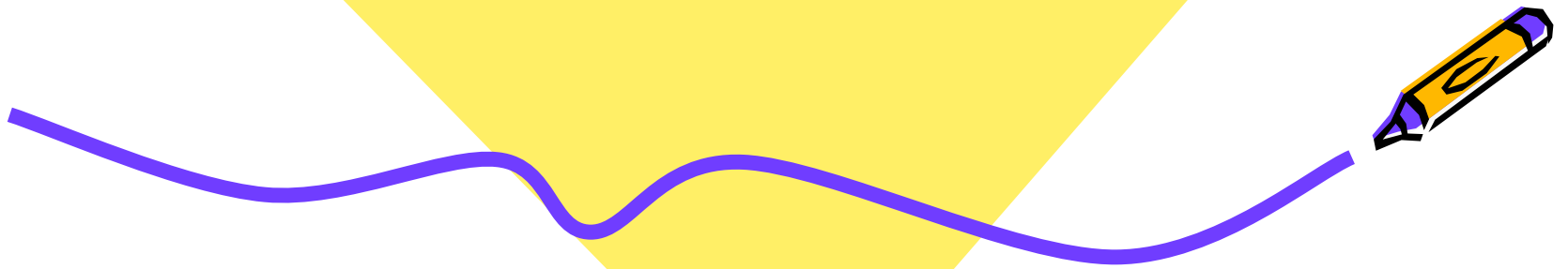
Reflect/Discuss

- What do you think of his characterization of evil as a black hole, an emptiness?
- What's your biggest take away from his message?



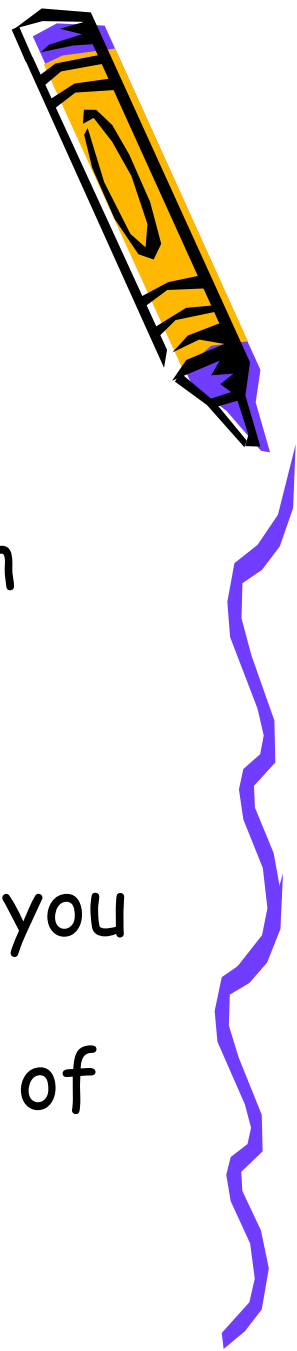


*"In the presence of evil,
we fill our hearts . . ."*





Scripture



- Isaiah 2:4 They shall beat their swords into plowshares . . .
- Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf will lie down with the kid . . .
- Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers . . .
- Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened . . .
- Luke 1:78-79 By the tender mercy of God
- Other . . .



Church

- We have an obligation to respond
- Guided by Christ's love and mercy
- Work toward a culture of life
 - End violence in homes
 - Break patterns of abuse & violence
- Never justified => immoral
- Consistently urge policy changes

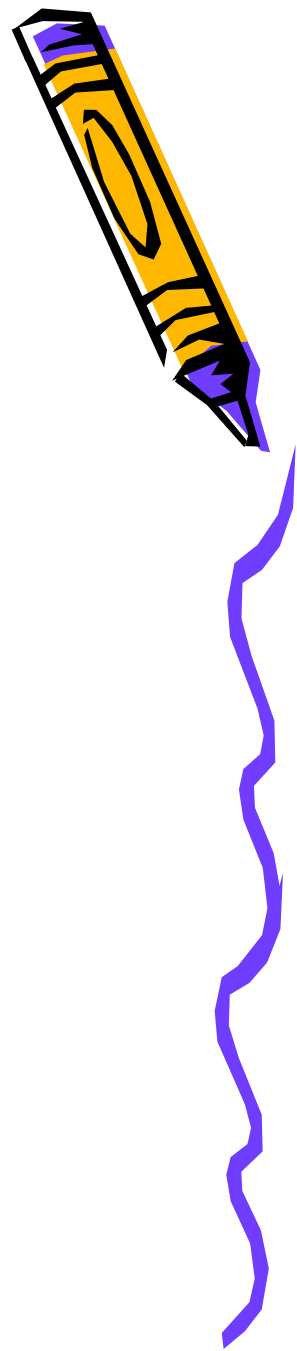


Church

- A total ban on assault weapons
- Measures that control the sale and use of firearms
- Limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons
- A federal law to criminalize gun trafficking;
- Improved access for mental health care
- Regulations on the purchasing of handguns;
- Measures that make guns safer
- An honest assessment of the toll of violent images and experiences which inundate people, particularly our youth.

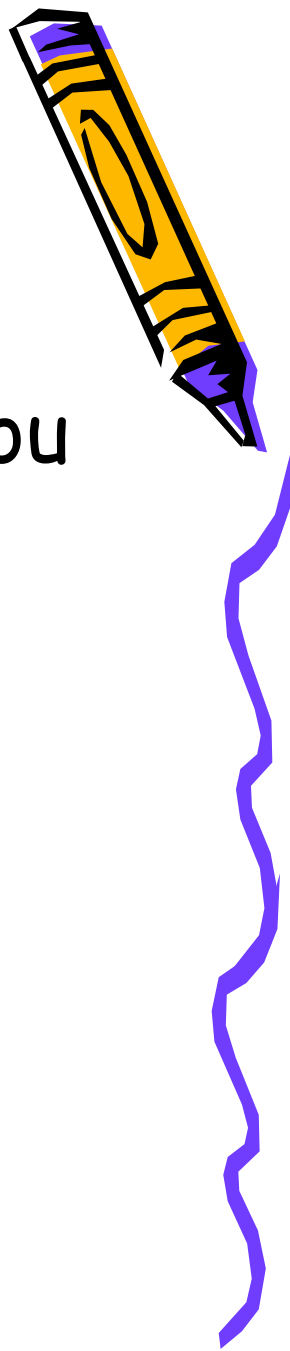


Parents / Persons



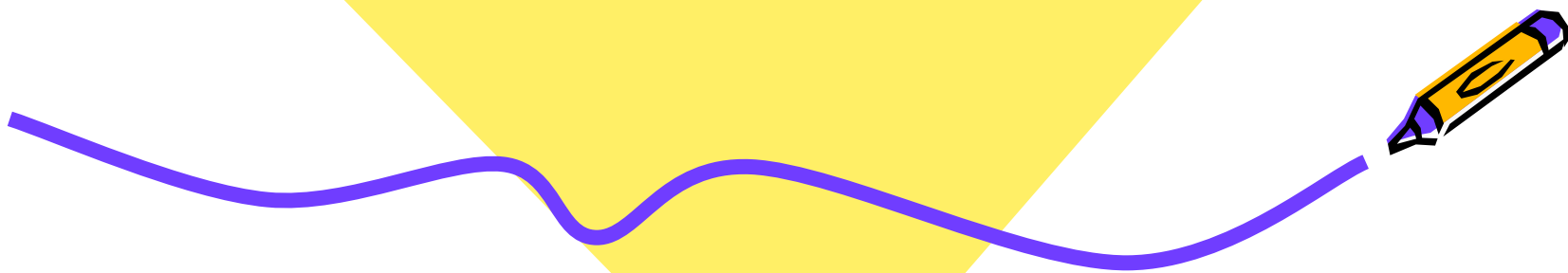
Reflect/Discuss

In the presence of evil, how can you fill your heart even more?



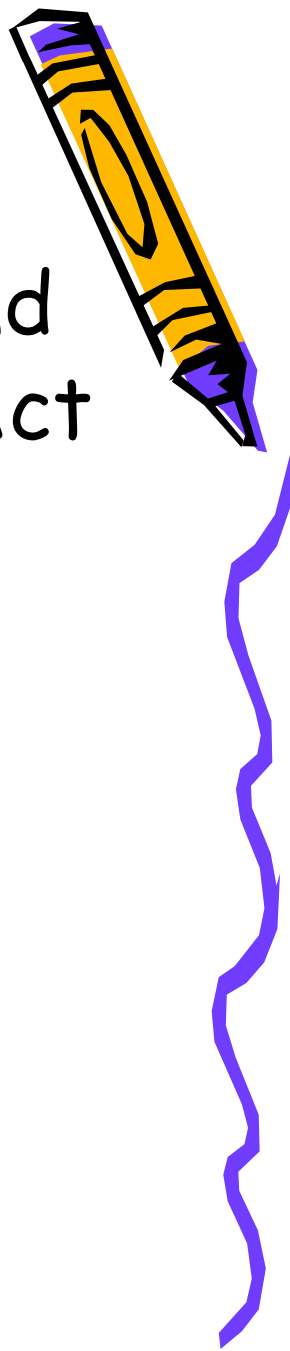


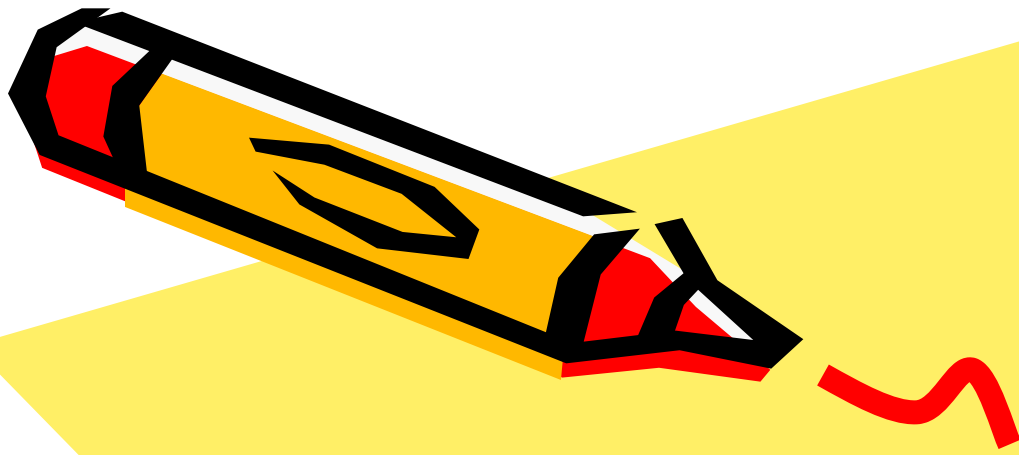
Called to Act



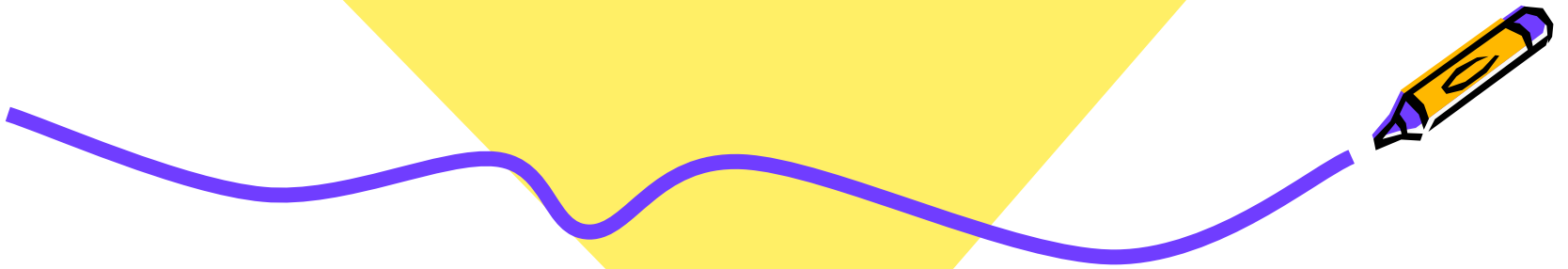
Resources

- Three ways Catholics can respond to Gun Violence: Pray, Reflect, Act
- Oregon's Gun Laws Explained
- Gun Violence in the U.S.
- Specific, local opportunities
- Other





Pray



Pray

Gracious Lord who loves us so perfectly,
help us to better love you and each other.

We weep for the gun violence that kills
children and so many others,
where guns replaced prayers, and homes
without you bred frustration.

May hearts be changed through your Holy
Spirit that justice, mercy, money, and
yes, even guns might be used rightly
under heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

