



# NEWS RELEASE

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ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

## **San Diego Bishop Issues Statement on Deadly Attack in Dallas**

SAN DIEGO, July 8, 2016 – The Most Rev. Robert McElroy, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, today issued the following statement concerning the attack in Dallas, Texas, that left five police officers dead and two civilians injured:

“The Catholic community of San Diego and Imperial Counties stands in sorrowful solidarity with the people of Dallas, and particularly with the victims of the violent and brutal attack upon the men and women who dedicate their lives to enforcing the law, often at great personal risk.

“We weep with the families of those who were shot and especially those who were killed, and we are renewed in our gratitude to officers of the law who undertake the enormously complex and difficult task of attaining justice in our society. It is a profoundly tragic irony that these officers were killed precisely at a moment when they were safeguarding citizens who were peacefully pointing to shortcomings in our criminal justice system.

“May this irony be a spur to us all to work together to end the scourge of violence which plagues our nation, to deepen the justice and unity which our Founders sought to erect in the United States for our criminal system, and to support the countless men and women who serve our society with fairness and effectiveness as officers of the law.”

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### **San Diego Diocese**

The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California’s border with Mexico and serves more than 1 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial Counties. It includes 98 parishes, 51 elementary and secondary schools and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. The diocese also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.