



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

CONTACT

Joe Cacopardo
Director of Marketing and Strategic
Communications
Joe.Cacopardo@dioceseofnashville.com
615-760-2783

Statement Regarding The Covenant School Shooting

The loss of innocent life stuns Nashville and the Nation

March 27, 2023 – The incident at The Covenant School this morning has stunned the entire community. The clergy, faculty, and lay people of the Diocese of Nashville offer our deepest condolences and prayers to the victims, their families, and The Covenant School community.

“The news of the shooting and loss of lives at The Covenant School this morning is deeply sad and shocking. said Brian L. Cooper, Chancellor and chief operating officer of the Diocese of Nashville. “It is a painful reminder that these horrific events can happen at any time. Our own city is not immune to this violence. Across Middle Tennessee, our churches and schools continue to be vigilant as we focus on the safety and security of parishioners, students, faculty, and staff. It is a top priority.” Cooper continues, “Within the last five years, the diocese has conducted multiple comprehensive security reviews of each school and adjacent parish grounds. We have taken significant steps to continually enhance the security of our facilities in cooperation with parish leaders.”

“We have in place mandatory training for our faculty, staff, and administration. This was established several years ago,” said Dr. Rebecca Hammel, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Nashville. “This training accompanies annual site and safety protocol reviews and regular safety drills conducted with staff and students in our schools.” Hammel adds, “We will look for opportunities to strengthen our safety protocols as we learn from the ongoing police investigation of this sad incident.”

###

About the Diocese of Nashville

The Diocese of Nashville was established in 1837 and initially included the entire state of Tennessee. Today it covers 38 counties in Middle Tennessee. Its 60 churches serve a diverse community with sacraments celebrated in several languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. Ministries of the diocese include religious education, youth ministries, vocation formation, and Catholic Charities providing social services and assistance to those in vulnerable circumstances throughout the region. Visit dioceseofnashville.com to learn more.

About Diocese of Nashville Catholic Schools

Diocese of Nashville Catholic Schools educate students from age two through high school graduation. Its 16 diocesan schools are located in seven of the 38 counties of Middle Tennessee that comprise the Diocese of Nashville. Diocesan Catholic schools include one high school, one preparatory school (grades 6-12), and 14 elementary schools. Diocesan Catholic schools are Cognia and State of Tennessee accredited. Additionally, three independent Catholic schools operate within the diocese: St. Bernard Academy and two schools operated by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, which are Overbrook School and St. Cecilia Academy. Visit dioceseofnashville.com/catholic-schools to learn more.