

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, on behalf of the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful of the Antiochian Archdiocese, laments the tragic loss of life in Sutherland Springs, Texas and offers fervent, broken-hearted prayers for all of the innocent victims and for all of those who are grieving.

His Eminence reflects: “As children of the Church of Antioch, we are no strangers to acts of violence being perpetrated in our churches and know all too well the pain of such tragedies. During his recent visit, our Father-in-Christ, Patriarch John, witnessed to the courage, faith, and steadfastness of his flock in the face of violence and martyrdom, and we were moved by his preaching of love and reconciliation.

As Orthodox Christians of this land, we are similarly called to respond to evil with the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the witness of our martyred Church of Antioch, we offer our countrymen hope in Christ’s Resurrection and His final triumph over evil. We pray for our brothers and sisters of Sutherland Springs, and we beseech the Almighty God to grant eternal rest to the slain, speedy recovery to the wounded, and grace-filled comfort to all those affected.”