Bishops express sorrow, condemn racially motivated shooting in Buffalo

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Several Catholic bishops in the U.S. expressed sorrow and called out racism and gun violence after reports of a May 14 mass shooting in Buffalo, N.Y., that left 10 dead and three injured—a crime authorities categorized as likely motivated by hatred for Black people.

In a separate shooting at a Presbyterian church in Laguna Woods, Calif., on May 15, a gunman killed one person and wounded five. The suspect in that shooting was targeting members of the Taiwanese community, Orange County officials said.

In one of the most powerful statements condemning the violence that took place when a gunman opened fire on a Saturday afternoon at a supermarket in Buffalo, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, said on May 15, “Faith compels us to say no to the rotten forces of racism, no to terror, and no to the mortal silencing of Black and brown voices.”

Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, W. Va., also spoke up against what has been categorized not just as violence, but an act colored with chilling racism.

“‘St. Paul was everywhere’ in former atheist’s conversion to Christ

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles chronicling the journey of six people who were received into the full communion of the Church at the Easter Vigil on April 16.)

By Natalie Hoefer

Adam Scott was a self-proclaimed atheist. The 27-year-old Indianapolis biomedical engineer had been living his life “as a stereotypical secular man.”

“I didn’t care about faith,” Scott admits. “I was more interested in the material world. I just kind of lived my life and was excited about whatever was in front of me.”

In June 2021, he had a “bad” breakup with his girlfriend.

“In just a matter of hours, I realized how terrible my life actually was,” says Scott. “I wasn’t really a nice person. I didn’t treat people close to me very well. It was pretty overwhelming.”

In response to this realization, Scott attempted suicide. The person he was with at the time saved his life—and that’s when Scott says he experienced a “St. Paul moment” in which he came to believe in God.

“In that moment, I was like, ‘Wow! There is something bigger to this [life]!’” he recalls. “I realized there was this holy presence with me. I felt that deep in me. I became convinced in that very moment that God was real, like the snap of a finger.”

With the help of a longtime friend,

Standing between his sponsor Stone Robbins, left, and his pastor Father Rick Nagel of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, right, Adam Scott smiles with joy after the Easter Vigil Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church on April 16, when he joined the full communion of the Church. (Submitted photo)

A desperate call leads retired teacher to return to challenge and bring joy to students

By John Shaughnessy

When Ryan Schnarr sent the text, he did it out of desperation and with the full knowledge that he was about “to ask a lot of someone who had already given so much.”

As the principal of St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, Schnarr was in a desperate situation at the beginning of this school year.

After a long summer search, he had finally found someone to teach science to the seventh- and eighth-grade

At 74, Mary Jaffe came out of retirement this year to teach at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, where eight of her grandchildren attend. (Submitted photo)
Pope Francis said, "must be ready to respond with love and conversion. Indifference, individualism, fuel throwaway culture," he says on May 16.

"I feel like I have a purpose now," says Scott. "And I think that does wonders more than a lot of people know, just having something out past this life that you’re try to achieve. It gives a temporary life for a Communio.”

"I’m excited to take on that process and try to be a better man, [future] husband and father, family member and friend. "I feel like I got a second life.""