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DIOCÈSE ANGLICAN MONTRÉAL

Monday, January 30, 2017

Dear friends,

We awoke this morning to the horrific news of the heinous act of violence at Quebec City's Grand Mosque.

We are gathered in Canterbury with 27 other bishops from across the Anglican Communion for several days of formation on episcopal ministry. After the initial wave of shock and grief had passed, we prayed—for the dead, the wounded, the perpetrators. The dean and chapter of Canterbury Cathedral want you to know that this tragedy and its victims are being held up in this 1,400-year-old place of prayer.

Along with our grief and prayers we are called as disciples of Jesus to express our solidarity with our neighbours who are Muslim.

We wish to express directly to our Muslim neighbours in Quebec our grief and repugnance at this brutal act of violence against another community of faith, and one in the midst of prayer. When one is attacked, we are all attacked, and our whole society is diminished.

Vigils and other acts of solidarity are spontaneously emerging, and we encourage you to seek out and participate in these gatherings—standing alongside other Christians, people of other faiths, and people of goodwill.

In Quebec City, one such gathering begins at 6:00 p.m. at Église Notre-Dame-de-Foy (820 rue de Chanoine-Martin in Ste-Foy), near the mosque that was attacked. In Montreal, a vigil is being organized at the du Parc métro station, also starting at 6:00 p.m.

We encourage the Anglicans of our dioceses to participate in these public expressions of solidarity, and others which will take place in the days ahead. We especially invite members of the clergy to wear their collars and even cassocks, so that we can offer a still more visible sign of our solidarity with members of a neighbouring community of faith.

In participating in such gatherings we can give expression in a small but meaningful way to the fourth Mark of Mission, which calls us to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers
Bishop Coadjutor of Quebec

The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson
Bishop of Montreal