



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299  
Telephone (215) 587-3747 • [commof@archphila.org](mailto:commof@archphila.org) • [www.archphila.org](http://www.archphila.org)

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Contact: Kenneth A. Gavin  
Chief Communications Officer  
215-587-3747 (*office*)

**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ REGARDING  
SHOOTING IN WEST PHILADELPHIA AT EID AL-FITR  
CELEBRATION MARKING THE CONCLUSION OF RAMADAN**

I was deeply saddened to learn of the gun violence that erupted in the Parkside section of West Philadelphia this afternoon shattering an Eid al-Fitr celebration marking the conclusion of Ramadan.

On behalf of the bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, I extend heartfelt prayers and expressions of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Muslim faith community. We share a common call with them to be bearers of hope, peace, and joy in all things. Today, we share in their pain.

I ask all people of the Church of Philadelphia to join me in asking God to strengthen and console all those who are suffering. May the Almighty pour His mercy upon them and hold them in His loving embrace.

We also pray for the swift recovery of all those who were injured this afternoon. We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to all of the first responders who are currently on the scene and who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our communities each day. May God watch over and protect them.

*Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.*  
*Archbishop of Philadelphia*