



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 11, 2024

Dear St. Joseph University Social Justice Gun Violence Awareness Subcommittee Members,

Thank you again for meeting with me last month to discuss the troubling issue of gun violence in our society. I appreciate the discussion we had, and the information that you provided on national gun violence, national polling data, and the current gun legislation in New York State under the NY SAFE Act.

I had communicated with the Knights of Columbus leadership earlier in 2023 that the use of the Knights of Columbus Events Center in Cheektowaga for a gun show is completely unacceptable and abhorrent based on the US Catholic Church's clear stand on a call for an assault weapons ban, universal background checks, severe restrictions on civilian use of high-powered weapons, high-capacity magazines, bump stocks, auto sears, etc. (*Backgrounder on Gun Violence: A Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence*, January 2020, [USCCB Position on Gun Violence](#))

Based on your passion for this issue and our faith's clear directive on gun ownership and gun violence, I will again call on Knights' leadership to cancel the Niagara Frontier Gun Show scheduled for March 2024 at their facility.

Please be assured that if this show is not cancelled at the event center, I will begin the process to have the charter revoked of the Father Justin Council, so in effect stripping the Knights' affiliation with this facility.

Once again, I thank you for your commitment to this issue and together I hope we can continue to bring greater awareness and education to this important issue and strive to create a safer place for us all.

My God continue to bless you and the important work toward this cause.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo