



Bishop Bonnie Perry Calls for Sensible Gun Laws at Michigan Rally with Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords

The following are remarks delivered by Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry, bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, at the Michigan State Capitol gun safety rally with Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords on March 15, 2023, in Lansing. Other speakers included Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, and U.S. Representatives Elissa Slotkin and Debbie Dingell. The full rally can be watched [here](#).

My name is Bonnie Perry and I am the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. I speak for the other Episcopal Bishops in the state of Michigan and our more than 200 communities of faith.

We support the sensible gun bills that will soon be voted upon in the House and Senate. My Lutheran Bishop Colleagues support these bills, the Methodist Bishop of Michigan supports these bills, the Catholic Conference supports them, as do the Baptist Pastors of Detroit and our siblings in the Jewish Community Relations Council. Friends, I cannot remember a time when we all agreed on something. This matters.

Last week, I was chatting with some members of the legislature, reps and senators who were lamenting the evil of our world, the fallen nature of humanity. And pointing out that these bills would not solve those problems.

I agree that we live in a world with an enormous amount of pain and brokenness, fear and sin. And I believe that we, people of good will and people of faith are called to do more. We do not have to just drop our shoulders and mournfully say, "I'm so sorry for you loss." **WE CAN DO MORE.**

As a Christian God demands that I do more. I worship a God who came into the world and said, "I am resurrection and I am Life." (John 11). Resurrection means there is always something more. We can do more.

Sensible, bit by bit changes.

Mandatory seatbelts have not ended car accidents, they have however, greatly reduced automobile fatalities. These sensible gun laws can do the same decreasing gun deaths. We can do more.

I envision a changed world when we do more.

I envision a world where the gun deaths in our cities are not a silent, poverty—fueled plague of death.

I envision a world where the help of medical professionals and the police can intercede before an extremely troubled person tries to alter their situation with a gun.

I envision a world where I do not have to offer pastoral care to a priest who will be burying two of three triplets, shot and killed. We can do more.

I envision a world where I do not have to say to one of colleagues on my staff, you don't have to come to work today, I know that your son is at MSU and I know how scary this shooting is for you. Be with your family today and hold them close.

We can do more.

Friends, I envision a world where the greatest cause for concern for our young people when they enter a classroom is figuring out the square root of the hypotenuse, and not the angles they will need to use to hide when an active shooter enters the room.

We can do more. We must do more.

I envision a world where our lawmakers, Republicans and Democrats have the **political courage and common decency** to vote "Yes" to these sensible gun laws.

We can do more, we must do more to keep our children and our neighbors safer. To not pass these laws, well, that would be a sin. We can do more.

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About Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Organized in 1832, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan (EDOMI) consists of 75 congregations and more than 17,000 baptized members in the southeastern region of Michigan. The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry was consecrated on Feb. 8, 2020, as the 11th bishop of EDOMI. Prior to her election as bishop, Perry spent 27 years as rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Chicago, one of the largest and the most active congregations in the Diocese of Chicago.