



Oct. 11, 2023

Dear Friends,

Words often fail when faced with the inhumane violence of terrorism and the destruction of war. Nevertheless, as a university community, we must voice our solidarity with the people of Israel as they grapple with the aftermath of unprecedented brutal attacks by Hamas this past weekend amidst Jewish holidays. We must likewise recognize and remember innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza killed, injured or displaced by the war that has ensued.

Many within our University community have family and friends who may be directly affected by these tragic events. Please remember campus resources are available to offer support, including, but not limited to the Dean of Students Office (201 DeNaples Center; 570-941-7680), Counseling Center (6th Floor O'Hara Hall; 570-941-7620) and Campus Ministry (200 DeNaples Center; 570-941-7419) for students and the Employee Assistance Program for staff and faculty.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, we will conduct a vigil at noon in the G. Donald Pantle, S.J., Rose Garden to pray for peace and for all victims of violence in the Middle East.

Until then, I ask that you join me in praying for peace in Israel and Gaza and for a just and secure future for the peoples of the Holy Land. Let us also pray for all victims of violence, for those held captive, for their families and loved ones, and for those who care for them. As Pope Francis said in his "Prayer for Peace": Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother" [and "sister"], and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President