

When “Breaking News” comes in my email, it is usually bad news. And recently, it is heart-breaking news. The shootings in Buffalo and now in Uvalde with children dead, teachers dead and parents and a nation weeping, grieving. I am heart-broken. Again.

Our fascination and attachment to violence, guns and hatred is killing us.

It is time to stop and make some changes. It is time to make real St. Francis’s prayer, “Lord, make me an instrument of peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.”

Teacher and author, Margaret Wheatly once said, we may not be able to restore sanity to the world, but “we can still remain sane and available and work for good. It is never too late to be brave.”

As writer Valerie Kaur has written, first people grieve together and then they organize together.

Let us be brave and organize to get gun safety legislation passed now. In Oregon and in Washington DC. Common sense background checks have been passed by the **US House of Representatives HR 8 and HR 1446** and our

Senators need to act for children and all citizens. In **Oregon, Resolution IP-17** is a ballot initiative that will reduce gun violence by make gun owners more accountable and ammunition less lethal. It needs signatures to be on the ballot – you can sign at lifteveryvoiceoregon.com

Let us be brave and organize to ban assault weapons. The constitution never imagined such a monster on our streets or at our schools. They are killing us.

Let us be brave and honor the children who died by supporting or sponsoring children in need and supporting organizations that help get children out of poverty. Or advocating for mental health resources for youth.

Let us be brave and kind and break bread together as we pray, lament and organize to create the beloved community of peace and inclusion in the Holy Scriptures of many faiths.

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