

# The Ketteler Legacy

## *When Hatred Rules*

This past week, the news on both television and radio was filled with the tragedy that took place in Orlando, Florida. Not only have so many people senselessly died and while others were wounded but many people are now filled with fear and blame not only the person responsible for the tragedy but also blame the religion, the cultural background of the individual. Our politicians and candidates for Presidency would have us believe that we must close our borders to immigrants, slaughter the peoples of these nations, and then sit content with our “virtue” and fears.

I overheard the following conversation, “I am so afraid of these people (Muslims and immigrants) that wherever I go, I look for a place to hide -in Church, in the grocery store, the mall. I know these people will kill me.”

Yes there are some enemies of the United States, but to condemn a whole nation or a certain religion is allowing fear and hatred to rule our lives. Do we forget that we are all children of God, a God who loves us, holds us carefully in his arms? A God Who in His wisdom made us a variety of colors, of beliefs, and nations of people.

Will we allow our fears and prejudices rule our lives? Will we miss the beauty of our differences? Will we allow a few evil leaders corrupt the teachings of God and turn us against each other or will we follow Jesus and love those who hate and ignore the teaching of Jesus?

Submitted by Sister Paulita Kuzy  
Peace and Justice Committee

*“Works of love are the most convincing arguments. When people see that with us is the home of love, of an active Christian love that is ever ready to aid our suffering needy brother or sister, the truth of our faith will also be recognized.”*

*Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler*

*“I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful ... I see the church as a field hospital after battle”*

*Pope Francis*