

PROCLAMATION OF COMPASSION AND CARE

WHEREAS, we, who are faith and spiritual leaders in San Antonio, join together representing a diversity of religious traditions, belief systems, and spiritual practices in order to responsibly nurture and preserve our community;

WHEREAS, we are agreed that all human beings are sacred creations and need every safeguard for healing and thriving during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, we must seek the best in ourselves and the best for our neighbors' health and well-being to uphold the universal golden rule of reciprocity;

WHEREAS, we are unifying today and every day to model the future we wish to see for future generations as an act of faith, acknowledging that faith is not something we hold in our hands but a confidence we hold in our hearts;

WHEREAS, we affirm that physical distancing is an act of compassion and absolute medical necessity;

THEREFORE, we call on all people of faith, no matter the expression of faith, to join in our urgent appeal not to congregate or gather in person for worship and prayer until the pandemic threat is resolved. We commend our government and community leaders in taking action for our welfare and resolve to work in one accord with our civic leaders to maintain physical distance as a means to diminish the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to respectfully honor the sanctity of human life.

Signed,

Rabbi Jeffery Abraham
Rabbi Alan Berlin
Cantor Julie Berlin
Bishop Susan J. Briner
Rev. Dr. Fredrico Gerard Brock
Pastor Kan'Dace Brock
Rev. Andries J. Coetzee
Rev. Paul Escamilla
Dr. Paul Furukawa
Pastor John Garland
Rev. Greg Hackett
Rev. Wyndee Holbrook
Interfaith San Antonio Alliance (Board members: Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Rev. Mignon Jones-Spann, Mrs. Judith Lackritz, Rev. Les Hollon, Fr. Lawrence Christian, Dr. Jack Reese, Mr. Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., and Rabbi Steve Guttow)
Sr. Martha Ann Kirk
The Reverend Elizabeth Knowlton
Rabbi David Komerofsky
The Rev. Ram Lopez
Sr. Walter Maher
Sr. Tere Maya

Rev. Rick McClatchy
Rabbi Mara Nathan
Mr. Mehmet Oguz
Mrs. Olga Rodriguez
Rev. Victor Rodriguez
Rev. Dr. Bart Roush
Ms. Margaret Salvatierra-Earl
Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg
Rabbi Avraham Sheinberg
Bishop Robert Schnase
Dr. G.P. Singh
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio
Mrs. Sumeyra Tek
Rev. Sylvia Vásquez
Mr. Abel Vega
Ms. Patty Villarreal, LMSW
Rev. Garrett Vickrey
Rev. Eric Vogt
Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson
Dr. Scott Woodward
Rabbi Marina Yergin