

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This is the 21st anniversary of the terror attacks against our country.

On September 11th, 2001, 2997 people were killed when four commercial airliners were hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Twin Towers in lower Manhattan, the Pentagon in Washington DC, and a field in Shanksville PA.

More than 6000 others were injured.

265 people died on the four planes, 2,606 in the World Trade Center and in the surrounding area, and 125 died at the Pentagon. The attacks remain the deadliest terror attacks in world history.

Most of those who perished were civilians; but 344 firefighters and 72 cops died trying to help them. 55 military personnel also died in the Pentagon.

We will not forget them. We will not forget their grieving families and friends.

9/11 witnessed the worse and the best of humanity.

While unspeakable evil was perpetrated -unprovoked- against innocent people, we also witnessed what is noble and true in the human soul: acts of kindness, compassion, care, and solidarity, prayer.

In the Gospel we hear at Mass today, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

Another way to phrase this, would be to ask "Where is God in all of this?"

Jesus Christ himself answers this: he is the presence of God in our suffering, our want, our need.

Jesus Christ has broken the power of evil and of death itself.

Jesus Christ is a very specific Word of God, And Jesus Christ is a very specific Word from God.

May this Word, which is the presence of the Love of God in the face of evil, be that which sustains us today.

Fr. Sean