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CNS documentary service

Reactions to Storming of U.S. Capitol by Trump Supporters

Catholic Leaders

Following the violent invasion of the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 by supporters of President Donald Trump, Catholic leaders stressed the need to reject political divisions that turn to violence. The siege, intended to disrupt the formal acceptance of Electoral College ballots for President-elect Joe Biden, led to the deaths of five people. After reciting the Angelus prayer Jan. 10 at the Vatican, Pope Francis offered prayers for the people of the United States “shaken by the recent siege at the Congress” and prayed for those who lost their lives “in those dramatic moments.”

“I join people of goodwill in condemning the violence today at the United States Capitol.”

He emphasized that “violence is always self-destructive. Nothing is earned with violence and so much is lost.” Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a Jan. 6 statement that “the peaceful transition of power is one of the hallmarks of this great nation” and called on Americans to recommit themselves “to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God.” In Washington, House Democrats introduced a single article of impeachment Jan. 11, charging Trump with “incitement of insurrection” for his role in the riot. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, said a vote would be taken if Vice President Mike Pence does not seek to remove Trump under the 25th Amendment by Jan. 13. Statements from Catholic leaders follow.

Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB President

I join people of goodwill in condemning the violence today at the United States Capitol. This is not who we are as Americans. I am praying for members of Congress and Capitol staff and for the police and all those working to restore order and public safety.

The peaceful transition of power is one of the hallmarks of this great nation. In this troubling moment, we must recommit ourselves to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God. I entrust all of us to the heart of

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