



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 9, 2015

Dear Friends,


As I express words of deep sympathy to you, the parents, family and friends of Tyshawn Lee, my heart is filled with unspeakable sadness. The killing of this sweet nine year old boy leaves us all shaken and outraged.

In particular, I want to say something directly to Tyshawn's classmates and childhood friends. I am concerned about you. I can only imagine how upset and troubled Tyshawn's death leaves you. There is no reason why you and all kids in our neighborhoods should not be able to walk our streets without being victimized by the insanity of those who use guns to solve their disputes and problems.

As an adult, I apologize to all of you. You all deserve better from us who are adults. And I am ashamed that we have failed you. You have every reason to hold us accountable to do everything to make guns harder to obtain, and to put an end to the cycle of violence that is spinning out of control. It is our responsibility to create a city that is safe, a city where human life is valued, a city where your lives are valued as the precious gift they are. Never hesitate to hold us accountable, for when you do, you honor your friend and classmate, Tyshawn. Death has silenced his voice, but you can speak for him and all young people to demand that we adults do a better job of keeping you safe. You can turn away from anger and choose peace and you can count on my being your friend in all of this.

Please know that I will pray for all of you today and I will pray that God now wrap his arms around Tyshawn as his very own.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago