

# Putting an End to Gun Violence: God's Work Must Be Our Own

Sister Anne Marie Liston

**O**n Ash Wednesday, as I walked into our community room, I heard the TV commentators broadcasting from Parkland, Florida. I remember thinking, "Dear Lord, not another school shooting!" Of course, it was, and as I sat and watched I felt not only horror, but shame that my reaction was "another school shooting." We have experienced these unspeakable tragedies so often, that it seems like we are becoming numb to their occurrence.

Our little Cluny School closed, as most of you probably know, last June. As sad as I was to see that day, I find myself grateful that in Cluny School that kind of tragedy couldn't happen now.

As a former teacher I can only imagine the terror that must have filled the hearts of those teachers as they realized what was happening and that they were the "protectors." We know now that some of them gave their lives, and still, too many of those young people didn't make it out.

Indeed we pray and remember all of them and voice our dismay and our need to change things, but as the

young people across the country are telling us, that is not enough.

As a religious I know that prayer is all powerful and that a benevolent God hears us and wants to help us but maybe he wants more. Those young people in Tallahassee, Washington, DC and other cities are showing us that it is time to make our voices heard as they are doing.

Can we write a letter? Can we call a representative or senator and tell them how we feel? We have the greatest advantage of any generation when it comes to information and communication. Send an e-mail, communicate with others, call some friends and share ideas. Watching the news on TV or listening to the talk shows isn't enough, we can, so easily be misled by our own bias and prejudice.

And so, we ask for discernment and guidance from above, remembering that here on earth, "God's work must be our own."

## Other Social Justice Issues

**FACT:** The Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus has gone into history. While, as a child, I loved the excitement of seeing the circus in Madison Square Garden, I now realize the entertainment came at a great price for many of those animals. May we find better ways to teach our children about the glorious creatures God has given to the world. (PETA)

*Note: The Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny (USA/Canada), as part of its commitment to social justice, to earth and its creatures, subscribes to and supports several organizations who share their struggles for a better world through their literature. For further information on these topics please contact the editor.*

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## Assembly/Chapter (Continued from Page 1)

Our facilitator, Sister Constance Gilder, a Sister of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, was adept at keeping us on track and the work progressed smoothly. Interspersed with our discussions and reports we celebrated inspiring prayer services designed especially for our chapter by the sisters who worked on the committee, celebrated the Eucharist each day with Father Joe Bisson, enjoyed the delicious meals provided by the staff, and for the hardier souls found time to practice their skills at Phase TEN (a card game).

Wherever we are, and whatever the task assigned we always find time to get together and laugh, and share, and build the "cor unum" that marks us as Clunys. These are the moments we remember the best and we are grateful for the time we have together. Hopefully our efforts will bear fruit for the General Chapter in May and we pray that all our sisters gathered from the four corners of the globe will experience the same.