

## Victim Awareness Month Week One

Each week during the month of April we ask that you take a moment to pause, read a short reflection by those who are healing from the loss of a loved one to a violent death and to pray for all victims of violence.

### ***The Paschal Victim Praises***

Christians, to the Paschal Victim  
Offer your thankful praises!  
A Lamb the sheep redeems;  
Christ, who only is sinless,  
Reconciles sinners to the Father.  
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:  
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.  
Speak, Mary, declaring  
What you saw, wayfaring.  
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,  
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;  
bright angels attesting,  
The shroud and napkin resting.  
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;  
to Galilee he goes before you.”  
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.  
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!  
Amen. Alleluia.

### ***Reflection:***

“Twenty-nine years ago my brother, Fred, was murdered. It forever changed my life. I had locked away the darkest memories because they were too painful. Every day as I awoke, the pain was right there. So I pushed them back further. I recently joined the 10-week support group called “The Journey” with the Diocese of San Bernardino. When this healing journey presented itself, I knew God was calling me. I opened my heart to the process and the Holy Spirit came in! I am so thankful to now have peace and to honor my brother by celebrating his life instead of only remembering his death.”  
- JoAnn

### ***Prayer:***

Merciful God, hear our cry for your mercy in the wake of tragedy. Reveal your presence in the midst of our suffering. Help us to trust in your promises of hope and life so that desperation and grief do not overtake us. Come quickly to our aid that we may know peace and joy again. Strengthen us in this time of trial with the assurance of hope that we know in the death and resurrection of your Son. Amen.

Prepared by:  
The Office of Restorative Justice  
Diocese of San Bernardino  
1201 E. Highland Ave.  
San Bernardino, Ca 92404  
(909) 475-5474  
ahamilton@sbdiocese.org  
<http://www.life-dignity-justice.org>