



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 22, 2016

TO: All Clergy  
FR: Kathy Conner   
RE: Church Security Reminders

Today in the news it is being reported that ISIS is encouraging its supporters to target churches with the intent of making them “bloody celebrations in the Christian New Year”. This is nothing new. Since “9-11”, heightened threats occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and on religious holidays.

As many of you learned at our November 15<sup>th</sup> Clergy Workshop on Security, you are encouraged to have in place, especially during the next two weeks, the following proactive measures:

1. Parishioners serving as greeters should be at every Mass. Making eye-to-eye contact with as many people as possible and greeting them is important. If someone is alone or seems to be “out of their element”, they should be approached and greeted.
2. In the same way, greeters should be aware of suspicious questions being asked such as “Where do the children go during the church service?” or “Where are the side exits?”
3. Be on the lookout for anything “out of place” - a lone backpack, an abandoned box or paper bag, etc.
4. During the service, be aware of anything unusual occurring.

Ushers, Knights of Columbus members, or your weekly greeters can all be helpful in providing this vigilance. Should anyone see or here something troubling, they should not hesitate to call 911. The caller should be prepared to describe the individual(s) of concern and the situation. Law enforcement is grateful for these calls. They have received specialized training for these types of situations and appreciate the proactive measures that can be taken.

A very blessed Christmas to all! Thank you for your service to the people of God.