

# TWO CITIES MOURN

Thousands say goodbye  
to officers killed in Dallas  
shooting — one with ties to  
Fort Worth's North Side

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**P**ATRICIO “PATRICK” ZAMARRIPA CONSIDERED HIS WORK AS A POLICE OFFICER SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

“He understood that it was a vocation — a calling — as one who is to keep peace,” Fort Worth Bishop Michael Olson told mourners who filled the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in Fort Worth for the July 16 public funeral liturgy honoring Zamarripa.

The 32-year-old Fort Worth native, who graduated from Paschal High School in 2001, was the youngest of five police officers ambushed and killed July 7 in downtown Dallas while safeguarding marchers protesting officer-involved shootings. Funeral services were held in mid-July for Dallas Officers Lorne Ahrens, 48; Michael Krol, 40; Michael J. Smith, 55; and DART Officer Brent Thompson, 43.

Representatives from police departments across the country and Canada attended the funerals and participated in long, motorcycle-led processions to each fallen officer's burial site.

Thompson, the first DART officer killed in the line of duty, was honored during a memorial service at The Potter's House in Dallas on July 13. An Arlington Honor Guard carried his flag-draped casket into the church where his wife of two weeks, Emily, eulogized him.

“I'm going to put on my badge and my uniform and return to the street along with all of my brothers and sisters in blue,” said the widow, a fellow DART officer.



A member of the Police Unity Tour stops to touch the casket of Dallas police officer Patrick Zamarripa after funeral services July 16 at Wilkerson-Greines Athletic Center in Fort Worth. (Pool photo Ashley Landis/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS)

After a second, private funeral at Northside Baptist Church in Corsicana, the fallen officer was buried in a cemetery on his family's farm.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Farmer's Branch was the site of a private funeral Mass for U.S. Army Veteran Michael J. Smith on July 13. A member of the Dallas Police for 28 years, the married father was known for his upbeat attitude and compassionate approach toward others.

In his homily, Father Michael Forge advised family and friends of the murdered officer to choose love over hate.

“Mike was always about choosing to love the other,” the pastor said.

Smith's wife, Heidi, is a teacher at the parish school where daughter, Caroline, is enrolled. Older daughter, Victoria, is a recent graduate.

A public service was held the following day at Watermark Church in Dallas where Smith worked security for a number of years.

The 7,000-seat Prestonwood Baptist Church was filled to capacity for the July 13 funeral service of Officer Lorne Ahrens. Mourners included police officers from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department where Ahrens started his career. He joined the Dallas Police Department 14 years ago. His wife, Katrina, is a Dallas detective.

The Ahrens family lives in Burleson and attends Pathway Church but chose to have the slain officer's service in the large Dallas church to accommodate the crowd.

A gun salute, fly over, and flag presentation honored Michael Krol at the first of two funerals held for the Detroit native. After a memorial service July 15 at Prestonwood Baptist Church, the officer's body was flown to Michigan where he began his career in law enforcement as a jailer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.





A funeral Mass for Krol was celebrated at St. Robert Bellamine Catholic Church, which is located around the corner from his mother's home in Redford Township. Hundreds of officers and local officials came to pay their respects to the nine-year Dallas police veteran who moved to Texas in 2007 and lived in Fort Worth.

After the Mass, Krol was buried in Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery.

On July 16, thousands lined the 23-mile route from Wilkerson-Greines to Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery to pay tribute to Officer Zamarripa, a U.S. Navy war veteran.

"I wish that I could think of words that adequately heal the fear, anger, and sorrow each of us, in our own way, feel about the death of Patrick Zamarripa, his fellow officers and all those who were hurt and

**TOP RIGHT:** Bishop Michael Olson blesses the casket of Dallas police officer Patrick Zamarripa during a funeral service July 16 at Wilkerson-Greines Athletic Center. (Pool photo Ashley Landis/*THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS*)

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Davis Estrada, Erica Estrada, and Elisa Erica Elizondo during a candlelight vigil and Rosary for Dallas police officer Patrick Zamarripa at Marine Park in Fort Worth July 10. (Pool photo Ron Heflin / *THE TEXAS CATHOLIC*)

traumatized during the events of last week," Bishop Olson said to the gathering of family, friends, co-workers, and citizens who attended the hour-long Catholic liturgy. A choir from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church led worshippers in singing "On

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Dallas Police Honor Guard members salute during a ceremony for slain Dallas police officer Michael Krol outside of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, July 15. (Pool photo Tom Fox/*The Dallas Morning News*)





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Eagle's Wings" and "Here I Am Lord."

Referencing a reading from the Prophet Isaiah selected for the service, the bishop explained that humans are powerless to remove the veil of death, and the false solution of fighting death with death only serves to separate us from God and each other.

It's Christ's mission to lift the veil of death and its bitterness.

"It's a mission of selfless obedience. It's a mission of mercy and justice. It's a mission of sacrifice and love," he continued. "It's a mission that establishes peace that the world itself cannot give."

Described as kind, reliable, and vigilant by his family, Zamarripa grew up to become a natural mediator and peacemaker — roles he developed first at home and later with the Navy serving three tours of duty in Iraq. A desire to help others prompted him to enroll in the police academy and join the Dallas force in 2010.

"For him, to be a police officer, as with so many others, was to answer a call from God to be a peacekeeper," Bishop Olson observed adding the young father "served joyfully."

He asked the assembly of 5,000 people to pray "that the shadow of grief," experienced by the slain officer's family and friends, might be lightened by hope.

"We also pray for his colleagues in police service that they might be encouraged to pursue with fidelity an authentic mission of peacekeeping," the bishop said concluding his homily.

Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, pastor of All Saints Church, presided at a July 15 Rosary for Zamarripa at the Wilkerson-Greines Center. The officer's extended family is a longtime member of the Fort Worth North Side parish.

"His grandmother, Rosa,

comes to Mass here every Sunday," the pastor said. "Some of his brothers attend here. Others have moved, but the family is still very close to the parish."

During news coverage of the July 7 attack on Dallas police, Fr. Jasso heard the name Zamarripa and called one of the officer's brothers and later, his father.

"Since then, I've been praying for them and their son," said the Franciscan friar who offered a Mass for the slain officer the following morning. "They are one of the wonderful families with deep roots at All Saints. The whole parish has been praying for them and the other officers."

The murder of police officers in Dallas is tragic but, "It's a blessing that people come together during tragedies like this to support each other and strengthen their faith," Fr. Jasso said.

The pastor delivered a similar message to the crowd of people who turned out for Zamarripa's emotional Rosary vigil. There is more good in our nation than evil, Fr. Jasso told the congregation.

"When faced with difficult moments, we always come together in prayer," Fr. Jasso explained. "I'm convinced that the only way to extinguish the fire of hate, violence, and terrorism is with the power of love. We gather this evening because we love each other and have the hope of resurrection."

St. Bartholomew parishioner Lisa Losoya attended Trimble Tech High School with Zamarripa's mother, Valerie, and watched a young Patrick Zamarripa grow up.

"He was such a happy, respectful young man," says Losoya, who viewed a livestream of the funeral service at home.

"He loved his family, and his daughter meant the world to him. Patrick was a huge Texas Rangers fan and had lots of friends. The service was a wonderful tribute."

# AFTER SUMMER OF SHOOTINGS, U.S. BISHOPS DEVELOP TASK FORCE ON RACE

By Mark Pattison / Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta has been appointed as chair of a new task force of the U.S. bishops to deal with racial issues brought into public consciousness following a series of summertime shootings that



**Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory**  
(CNS photo/Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin)

left both citizens and police officers among those dead.

The task force's charge includes helping bishops to engage directly the challenging problems highlighted by the shootings. Task force members will gather and disseminate supportive resources and "best practices" for their fellow bishops; actively listen to the concerns of members in troubled communities and law enforcement; and build strong relationships to help prevent and resolve conflicts.

"By stepping forward to embrace the suffering, through unified, concrete action animated by the love of Christ, we hope to nurture peace and build bridges of communication and mutual aid in our own communities," said a July 21 statement from Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louis-

ville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In addition to creating the task force and appointing its members, Archbishop Kurtz also called for a national day of prayer for peace in our communities, to be held Sept. 9, the feast of St.

Peter Claver.

The day of prayer, according to a July 21 USCCB announcement about the task force's formation, will "serve as a focal point for the work of the task force."

The task force's work will conclude with the USCCB's fall general meeting in November, at which time it will report on its activities and recommendations for future work.

"I have stressed the need to look toward additional ways of nurturing an open, honest, and civil dialogue on issues of race relations, restorative justice, mental health, economic opportunity, and addressing the question of pervasive gun violence," Archbishop Kurtz said.

"The day of prayer and special task force will help us advance in that direction."