



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

September, 2026

Rabbi Robyn Fisher
By email: robyn18fisher@gmail.com

Dear Rabbi Fisher:

As you and your community prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yon Kippur, allow me on behalf of my fellow Catholics to wish you ***Shanah Tovah***.

Rosh Hashanah is described in the Torah as ***Yom Teru'ah***, a day of sounding (the Shofar). The sound of the shofar is also a call to repentance — to wake up and re-examine our commitment to God and to correct our ways.

In that spirit, I am also writing a letter to be published in our parish bulletins and our Archdiocesan newspapers urging my fellow Catholics to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors against all forms of anti-Semitism.

I write:

“Catholic teachings, as expressed in Vatican II documents such *Nostra Aetate* and in numerous declarations of recent popes, unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism as a sin against God and humanity. As Catholics we should not tolerate any racial slurs or bias thinking or actions against those whom St. Pope John Paul II famously referred to as ‘our elder brothers in the faith of Abraham’.”

These holy days so dear to you remind all of us of our responsibility to “repair the world” (***Tikkun Olam***).

While this task is certainly daunting, we nevertheless ask G-d to hear our prayers for a safe New Year filled with health and the blessings of peace and atonement.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

enclosure



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As our Jewish neighbors prepare to celebrate their High Holy Days, Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year's -September 11-12) and Yon Kippur (Day of Atonement -September 20-21, I urge all Catholics, and indeed all people of good will, to express solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters by standing firmly against anti-Semitism.

Jewish communities are facing rising, often violent, anti-Semitism and the profoundly real anguish of our Jewish brothers and sisters deserves to be taken seriously. The anxiety in Jewish communities and neighborhoods is palpable, and not irrational given recent events. Their concerns for security understandably rise during major holidays

The eruption of anti-Semitism, for example on many college campuses, and the increased incidences of violence directed at Jewish synagogues resulting in grave injuries and deaths have resulted in increased and very visible security measures outside of Jewish schools and temples.

Catholic teachings, as expressed in Vatican II documents such *Nostra Aetate* and in numerous declarations of recent popes, unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism as a sin against God and humanity. As Catholics we should not tolerate any racial slurs or bias thinking or actions against those whom St. Pope John Paul II famously referred to as "our elder brothers in the faith of Abraham".

On October 7, 2023, a massive, coordinated cross-border assault led by Hamas from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel killed approximately 1,200 people, mostly innocent civilians including women and children. This attack triggered a devastating regional war which has yet to end.

To be sure, even if the "fog of war" creates confusion and uncertainty, it is clear that on both sides many innocents tragically died as "collateral damage". Yet, we recognize the real concern of Jewish communities for the survival and security of the State of Israel and the profoundly existential (and often religious) significance accorded to it.

In condemning any form of persecution against Jews (and therefore also of the desire to destroy the State of Israel) we affirm the right of Israel to exist, and to exist in peace and security with its neighbors.

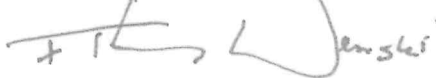
While war is to be deplored and avoided whenever possible, states do have a legitimate right to defend themselves as Pope Leo XIV affirms in his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitatis*, #92. But, we continue to hope and pray for a peaceful solution in the land we call "Holy".

For many years now, as our Jewish friends prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I write to the Rabbis of South Florida on behalf of my fellow Catholics to wish them and their congregations: *Shanah Tovah* (Happy New Year).

May God hear our prayers for a New Year filled with health and the blessings of peace and atonement as we make our own the words of the Psalmist:

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure." (Psalm 122:6)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Wenski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami



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Mientras nuestros vecinos judíos se preparan para celebrar sus fiestas, Rosh Hashaná (Año Nuevo judío, 11-12 de septiembre) y Yom Kipur (Día de la Expiación, 20-21 de septiembre), exhorto a todos los católicos y, ciertamente, a todas las personas de buena voluntad, a expresar su solidaridad con nuestros hermanos y hermanas judíos manteniéndose firmes contra el antisemitismo.

Las comunidades judías se enfrentan a un creciente antisemitismo, a menudo violento, y la angustia, profundamente real, de nuestros hermanos y hermanas judíos merece ser tomada en serio. La ansiedad que se vive en las comunidades y vecindarios judíos es palpable y, a la luz de los acontecimientos recientes, no es irracional. Es comprensible que su preocupación por la seguridad aumente durante las principales festividades religiosas.

El resurgimiento del antisemitismo, por ejemplo, en muchos campus universitarios, y el aumento de los actos de violencia dirigidos contra sinagogas judías, que han causado heridos graves y muertes, han llevado a reforzar de manera considerable y muy visible las medidas de seguridad en el exterior de escuelas y templos judíos.

Las enseñanzas católicas, expresadas en documentos del Concilio Vaticano II como *Nostra Aetate* y en numerosas declaraciones de los últimos papas, condenan inequívocamente el antisemitismo como un pecado contra Dios y contra la humanidad. Como católicos, no debemos tolerar ningún insulto racial ni prejuicios o acciones discriminatorias contra aquellos a quienes San Juan Pablo II se refirió célebremente como «nuestros hermanos mayores en la fe de Abraham».

El 7 de octubre de 2023, un ataque masivo y coordinado, encabezado por Hamás desde la Franja de Gaza contra el sur de Israel, causó la muerte de aproximadamente 1,200 personas, en su mayoría civiles inocentes, entre ellos mujeres y niños. Este ataque desencadenó una devastadora guerra regional que aún no ha terminado. Sin duda, aunque la “niebla de la guerra” genera confusión e incertidumbre, está claro que en ambos lados muchos inocentes han muerto trágicamente como “daños colaterales”. Sin embargo, reconocemos la legítima preocupación de las comunidades judías por la supervivencia y la seguridad del Estado de Israel, así como el profundo significado existencial —y a menudo religioso— que le atribuyen.

Al condenar cualquier forma de persecución contra los judíos —y, por lo tanto, también el deseo de destruir el Estado de Israel—, afirmamos el derecho de Israel a existir y a hacerlo en paz y seguridad junto a sus vecinos.

Aunque la guerra debe ser deplorada y evitada siempre que sea posible, los Estados tienen el legítimo derecho a defenderse, como afirma el papa León XIV en su encíclica *Magnifica Humanitatis*, n. 92. Pero seguimos esperando y rezando por una solución pacífica en la tierra que llamamos "Santa".

Desde hace muchos años, cuando nuestros amigos judíos se preparan para celebrar Rosh Hashaná y Yom Kipur, escribo a los rabinos del sur de Florida en nombre de mis hermanos católicos para desearles a ellos y a sus congregaciones: *Shaná Tová* (Feliz Año Nuevo).

Que Dios escuche nuestras oraciones por un Año Nuevo lleno de salud y de las bendiciones de la paz y la reconciliación, mientras hacemos nuestras las palabras del salmista:

"Pidan la paz para Jerusalén: que vivan tranquilos los que te aman". (Salmo 122, 6)

Atentamente en Cristo,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Wenski'. The signature is stylized with a large 'T' and a long horizontal stroke.

Reverendísimo Thomas Wenski
Arzobispo de Miami