



**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 16, 2019

MAYOR SCHNEIDER PRAYS FOR TRIUMPH FROM NOTRE DAME TRAGEDY

Dear Florissant Friends,

When Florissant was founded by French settlers in the 1770's some of them may have been baptized at Notre Dame. Built on an island, construction on the Cathedral was started in 1163 and was first completed in 1345. The treasure survived the Crusades and the Bloody French Revolution which inspired Victor Hugo's 1831 Classic "Hunchback of Notre Dame". The book motivated major renovations just prior to our Civil War and later the grand structure survived two devastating world wars.

Florissant with our French heritage is weeping as is all of humanity of all faiths and beliefs. We are mourning and feeling the weight of time and mortality of a large loss at one of the most significant structures in Western Civilization of treasures that were crafted by hands so many generations and centuries ago.

When I visited our Son Zachary when he was still on active Naval Duty in Europe several years ago one of the cities we traveled to was Paris. My most profound memory of that city was our visit to Notre Dame Cathedral. There happened to be a Mass in progress and many people in prayer from all parts of the world. The feeling of a universal Catholic community and a commonality with the people of the world was very strong in that colossal house of prayer. When Zach called me today to alert me to the fire I was in shock as is the entire world.

As we await a message of hope from Paris and Rome I pray that out of this tragedy the people of the world seek a triumph of togetherness and fellowship.

Prayerfully yours,

Mayor Tom Schneider

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