Standing Against Fear:
Catholic Church Hosts Interfaith Gathering After Mass Shooting

About 300 people gathered Thursday evening at St. Paul's Catholic Church to "grieve and rebuild the bonds of trust to overcome fear and hate" after the mass shooting Saturday at Walmart.

El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization and Border Interfaith organized "Standing Against Fear" to give El Pasoans a space to mourn and to talk through trauma that might have occurred the day of the shooting.

The goal of the gathering also was to urge the community to come together and publicly demonstrate unity, work to publicly reassure vulnerable communities to trust local law
enforcement and government and to meet with congressional members and legislative
delegation to propose common sense legislation to prevent violence in the future.

Attendees were asked to gather in
groups of five and ask each other,
"How are you feeling?" and "What do
you need?"

Speakers included Bishop Mark J.
Seitz with the Catholic Diocese of El
Paso, U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar,
state Rep. César Blanco, County
Judge Ricardo Samaniego and County
Commissioner Carlos Leon.

Catherine Washington, 18, recalls how she felt the day of the Walmart
shooting during “Standing Against Fear,” hosted by El Paso
Interreligious Sponsoring Organization/Border Interfaith on Thursday,
Aug. 8, 2019, at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in El Paso. (Photo: BRIANA
SANCHEZ/EL PASO TIMES)