

**A Statement from Archbishop Bellisario Regarding Protestor Behavior
at a Recent Anchorage Assembly Meeting:**

Like most Alaskans, it was with growing shock and disgust that I became aware of the events that unfolded at a recent meeting of the Anchorage Assembly when a number of protesters distributed and wore a Star of David reminiscent of the symbol that Jews were made to wear during the persecutions in Nazi Germany.

The use of this symbol of oppression and the other unacceptable conduct at the Anchorage Assembly meeting was inappropriate and should be roundly condemned by all peoples of faith.

Echoing the teachings of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council we affirm that “the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone.” (*Nostra Aetate*, 4)

We pray for healing and civility for our communities.