## THOUGHTS ON THE <u>USCCB STATEMENT</u>

The Middle East is in the throws of an upsurge in violence that threatens to bring increasing instability and disorder while adding to the carnage that has so tragically characterized that region over the past several decades. Civilians are suffering in Israel, Lebanon, and Gaza. The enlightened world watches with pity and a sense of helplessness. And the USCCB has issued a