

## PRAYER DURING THE MEETING OF THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES

During the week of November 12-15, the Bishops of the US will be holding their annual Fall meeting. High on the agenda will be the issue of the current crisis in the Church—a crisis that involves the abuse of power and the sexual victimization of children as well as adults. As the Body of Christ, we rejoice—and we suffer—together. Therefore, as a Diocesan Church, we are called to fast and pray in preparation for, and during, this crucial meeting of our bishops. Here are some possibilities.

Intercessions (adapted from the FDLC and other sources)

*For Church Leadership, especially the Bishops of the US:*

- For Pope Francis; for the bishops of the United States, meeting together in Baltimore; and for all the bishops of the world; that they may heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our bishops discerning how best to care for individuals and communities; for wisdom in working for a future of justice and integrity. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For shepherds with gentle strength, patient love, and humble wisdom. Let us pray to the Lord.
- That the voices of the Laity may be effective in influencing change in the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

*For Survivors of abuse and their families:*

- For the victims of abuse by clergy, that they may they find healing, support, and peace within the Catholic community. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For the families of abuse victims, that their compassionate concern may promote healing, and that their strong advocacy may bring about change within the Church and society. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For all victims who suffer terrible distress and anxiety due to abuse, especially for those who have taken their own lives as a result; may they find solace in the embrace of our loving God. Let us pray to the Lord.

*For those who care for victims of abuse and minister in the Church:*

- That all members of the Church may commit themselves to protect children and the most vulnerable in our communities. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For all those in parishes and dioceses who are responsible for safe environment training programs which promote the protection of children. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For parents, teachers, catechists, youth ministers, and coaches, that they may be watchful for signs of trauma or abuse in all those who are under their care. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For psychologists and others in the medical profession who bring healing to those troubled by past abuse. Let us pray to the Lord.

*For others:*

- For those who might abandon their faith due to scandal; that we may continue to love them, invite them to return to the practice of their faith, and welcome them home when they do. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For the clergy who have been found guilty of abusing children, that they will make reparation for their sin and find forgiveness in God's unbounded mercy. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For an outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to renew the hearts of the people and rebuild the organizational structures of the church. Let us pray to the Lord.

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### Weekend of November 11-12

Some of the intercessions from the list above, or similar prayers, should be used. While maintaining the assigned readings (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time B), please use one of the following Masses:

- Mass for a Council or Synod (Masses for Various Needs #5)
- Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs II: God Guides His Church along the Way of Salvation
- Green vestments are worn

#### OR

- Votive Mass for the Holy Spirit (Votive #9) – use the orations under “B” (second collect – “O God, to whom every heart lies open...”)
- Preface II of the Holy Spirit: The action of the Spirit in the Church.
- Red vestments are worn

### Week of November 12-15

Continue to use intercessions from the list above. On November 13, observe the Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who spent her life in the service of immigrants and children. On the other days of the week, consider using any of these Masses:

- Masses – Various Needs and Occasions
  - #1 For the Church
  - #3 For the Bishop
  - #5 For a Council or Synod
  - #6 For Priests
  - #38 For the Forgiveness of Sins
  - #48 In Any Need
- Votive Masses
  - #9 The Holy Spirit
  - #10B: Mary, Mother of the Church (see the FDLC resource below or go to <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/mother-of-the-church.cfm>)
  - #14 All the Holy Apostles

Parishes may also want to celebrate a Holy Hour, the Liturgy of the Hours, or a Public Rosary, during this time. The FDLC resource that was sent earlier, and is available on their website (<https://fdlc.org/>) or ours ([https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2018/9/FDLC\\_Resources\\_for\\_%20Liturgy\\_and\\_Prayer\\_August%202018.pdf](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2018/9/FDLC_Resources_for_%20Liturgy_and_Prayer_August%202018.pdf)), contains liturgical resources for Adoration and for Mass.

### Prayer at Home

Individuals and families are also encouraged to keep the bishops in prayer. Families may choose to pray the Rosary together, for example, and/or perhaps recite one of the following prayers. The first is adapted from the Roman Missal; the second is courtesy of the FDLC.

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O Lord,  
ruler and guardian of your Church,  
pour out, we pray, upon your bishops  
a spirit of truth, understanding and peace,  
that they may strive with all their heart  
to know what is pleasing to you  
and then pursue it with all their strength.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Adapted from the Roman Missal*

A ti, Señor,  
que guías y proteges a tu Iglesia,  
te rogamos que infundas en tus obispos  
el espíritu de sabiduría, de verdad y de paz,  
para que con todo el corazón conozcanlo  
que te agrada y, habiéndolo conocido, con  
todas sus fuerzas lo practiquen.  
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo.  
Amen.

*Adaptado del Misal Romano*

## A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Heavenly Father,  
In every age, you have been our refuge.

Yet again and still, we stand before you  
asking for your protection on your holy Church.

For the victims of abuse and their families,  
pour out your healing and your peace.

For the Bishops of this country,  
continue to inspire their decisions,  
and guide them with your Spirit.

For the thousands of good and faithful priests,  
who have followed your call to serve you and your people in holiness,  
sustain them by your grace.

For the faithful who are angry, confused, and searching for answers,  
embrace them with your love,  
restore their trust,  
console them with your clear Gospel message,  
and renew them with your sacraments.

We place our Church in your hands,  
for without you we can do nothing.  
May Jesus, our High Priest and true compass,  
continue to lead her in every thought and action –  
to be an instrument of justice,  
a source of consolation,  
a sacrament of unity,  
and a manifestation of your faithful covenant.

Grant this through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## ORACION POR NUESTRA IGLESIA

Padre Celestial,  
Tú has sido nuestro refugio en cada etapa de la vida  
Una vez más y como siempre, nos ponemos frente a ti  
pidiendo tu protección para tu santa Iglesia.

Te pedimos por las víctimas de abuso y por sus familias,  
derrama tu sanación y tu paz sobre ellos.

Por los Obispos de este país,  
para que continúes inspirando sus decisiones,  
y guiándolos con tu Santo Espíritu

Por los miles de sacerdotes fieles y buenos  
que han seguido tu llamado a servirte a ti y a tus fieles en santidad,  
sostenlos con tu gracia.

Por los fieles que están furiosos, confundidos, y en busca de respuestas,  
abrázalos con tu amor,  
restaura su confianza,  
consuélos con tu mensaje claro del Evangelio,  
y renuévalos con tus sacramentos.

Ponemos nuestra Iglesia en tus manos,  
porque sin ti no hay nada que podamos hacer.  
Que Jesús, nuestro Sumo Sacerdote y verdadero compás,  
continúe guiándola en cada pensamiento y acción –  
a ser una fuente de consuelo,  
un sacramento de unidad,  
y una manifestación de tu fiel alianza.

Te pedimos nos concedas todo esto a través del mismo Jesucristo,  
nuestro Señor,  
que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo,  
un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.  
Amen.