

Litany of healing and renewal

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and most loving God, through your Son you brought compassion, healing and hope to our world. In this time of pain and confusion, we ask you to receive these petitions from your people. In these words, we renew our faith in your power to heal victims, to heal the wounds of your Church, and to draw all of us into a new era of safety and trust. We need you. We trust you. We place our needs before you:

For those who have been abused: That they may experience healing from shame, isolation, anger, and despair; that they may be listened to with compassion, treated with dignity, and supported in the healing process. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For those who counsel victims: That their words of wisdom and compassion may be instruments of healing for those they accompany. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For the perpetrators of abuse: That they may experience sincere remorse for their crimes, approach God with sorrow, and be prepared to make reparation for the damage they have caused. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For those who failed to protect children, those who, in any way, betrayed the trust placed in them: May they humbly acknowledge their responsibility for harm done to children. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For the faithful who are angry, scandalized, discouraged: That they may come to recognize the real presence of Christ in His Church despite the tragic failures of Church members and leaders. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For all the faithful: That our response to this dark episode will result in even stronger faith that Christ will rebuild His Church and not allow evil to prevail; may we grow in our conviction that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more; and may we renew our commitment to participate in the sacraments, learn the faith, join our parish communities, and serve the poor and marginalized. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For our priests: That they may be protected from discouragement and that they may experience a renewal of authentic priestly identity, intimate union with Christ, joyful zeal for souls, liberating chastity, and humble charity. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For young people discerning a religious vocation to priesthood or consecrated life: That the tragic failures of some may not blind them to the heroic virtue of many. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For our bishops: That they may take initiatives which protect the flock entrusted to their care; restore trust; are transparent and free of self-interest; and unite the flock with the Heart of the Shepherd. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For non-Catholics who may be tempted to disparage Catholics, the Catholic faith, and the Catholic Church because of these scandals: May they be blessed to encounter the witness of faithful Catholics. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For law enforcement officials, legislators and judges: That they may carefully weigh all aspects of the scourge of child abuse in our society as they pursue justice. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For all professionals in the news media and communications: That they may adhere to the highest ethical standards, seeking the truth as they bring to light the extent of this scandal and the ways the Church is responding. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For all who work with children, especially teachers, coaches, and youth ministers: That they might experience a renewed commitment to their treasured service and find ways to protect and enhance the dignity of each child. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For all parents: That they may foster family life rooted in love, prayer, faith, and mercy; homes filled with joy and consecrated to God which form children in virtue and mature faith. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

For all children: That they may be loved by their family, protected in home and school, and learn about the goodness of God so that they can develop a personal relationship with Jesus. We pray,
Have mercy on us, Lord.

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CONCLUDING PRAYER

"Prayer for Healing Victims from Abuse" by the USCCB

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done
to our brothers and sisters.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.