

Prayers of the Faithful For Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In keeping with the call of Pope Francis “to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit” and enter into authentic solidarity “in the deepest and most challenging sense”, through acts of shared prayer, penance and fasting, we share with you the following prayers for use during your general intercessions.

These are not easy words to pray and they are not easy words to hear, but justice and healing for the victims and families affected by the abuses of power, sexual abuse and conscience demands that we speak them and demands that we hear the cry of the victim. Pope Francis reminds us that “these wounds never go away...these wounds never disappear” and that “the heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven” must be heard and brought to the feet of the only one who can give answer, consolation and hope in the midst of such woundedness.

You are encouraged to choose any one of the following suggested prayers in your Masses periodically throughout the year as a means of ensuring the voices and the needs of victims are heard and that all of the faithful might be opened to the spiritual graces our Church is most in need of at this time.

- A. For victims of abuse by clergy, and religious; That they may have justice, that processes of reporting crimes of abuse within our institutional Church may be thoroughly scrutinized, and that we might come to better understand the problem of abuse and find ways to protect children from it. Let us pray to the Lord.

Or

- B. For healing for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and lay workers. May we all work together to make our churches, schools and families havens of safety and respect for the young and the vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord.

Or

- C. For wisdom and compassion in our leaders and those who have care for the young: that they will do all in their power to protect children from any form of abuse. Let us pray to the Lord.

Or

- D. For the grace of renewal for all whose Christian faith and hope have been deeply wounded by the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. Let us pray to the Lord.