

Reading: Romans 8:22-27

Silent Reflection

Prayers of the Faithful:

We pray for the healing of survivors of clergy sexual abuse, their families and communities.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may guide our bishops in their response to this crisis.

We pray that the community of faith, in the spirit of Jesus, may reach out with compassionate care to survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their family members.

We pray for repentance, forgiveness and healing for priests and bishops who have abused children and young people.

We pray that Jesus embrace all people who have been wounded by this crisis.

We pray that the Spirit of God may continue to work through the people of God to bring justice and transformation to our church.

We pray that the church will adopt new structures of accountability in all its policies and procedures.

We pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's gifts on our families, churches and world.

(adapted from "A Prayer Service for Healing in Response to the Clergy Sex Abuse Crisis" by Sr. Bridget Mary Meehan, sfcc)

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Left: We believe, loving God, that you are creating us, walking with us, helping us to be co-creators of a renewed church where all might flourish and thrive.

Right: We believe, loving God, that you are calling us to compassion for our world, our neighbors, the least among us, and at this time, especially, the survivors of sexual abuse.

Left: We believe, loving God, that you know our suffering and call us to be one with each other.

Right: We believe, loving God, that you are with us in history and call us to make real the words of the prophets, that we might heal suffering caused by sin, secrecy, deceit, the misuse of power, and all structures of domination and oppression.

Left: We believe, loving God, in you who became human and dwelt among us, who calls us to build a world of life and love and to find in that work the transcendence of divine joy.

Right: We believe in the community of faith planted on this earth to carry out the witness of Jesus, to nurture one another on this journey with love and tenderness, to heal all who have been crucified among us, to make whole the Body of Christ.

All: We believe in a world and a church where there are no longer rich and poor, oppressor and oppressed, those with power and those without, those with a voice and those who are voiceless, but where all are welcome at the banquet table, sharing the one bread in the dignity and sacredness that God has bestowed on all creation through Jesus our crucified and risen brother. Amen.

(adapted from "Stations of the Cross: a prayer of solidarity with the victims of clergy sexual abuse," by Lori Lambert, Christine Pao, Aileen Ryder, Susan Rutkowski and Colleen Vogt of The Coalition of Concerned Catholics)

Closing Song

Out of respect for the survivors of sexual abuse, we will walk two-by-two in silent procession to the Fairmont Hotel where the bishops are meeting. We will stand vigil there, continuing to pray for wisdom and justice until 7:30 am tomorrow morning. Please remain with us as long as you are able.

Call To Action is a national organization of 25,000 laity, religious, priests and bishops with its national office in Chicago. It has 40 local chapters. It advocates for reforms in the Catholic Church such as the ordination of women, optional celibacy for priests, more focus on the church's social justice teaching, and consultation with the Catholic people on church decision-making and sexuality issues. Our comprehensive web site is at www.cta-usa.org.

The Open Window is Call To Action's affiliate in Dallas. Nine years old, the group meets monthly. For information about local activities, please contact John Gindling at 214-350-2267.

Prayer for Wisdom and Justice

As the U.S. Catholic Bishops carry on their deliberations about the sexual abuse which has rocked our Church, we, the faithful, gather to seek the Holy Spirit's intervention. We are in need of the Spirit's wisdom to protect the lives of children in the future, to bring justice to bear on the crimes of the past, and to address the abuse of power at the root of this crisis. Call to Action asks for the sincerity the responsibility and obligation of the People of God to share their opinions on critical matters for the good of the Church. Those gathered here bring their much needed expertise, concern, and faith in God's abiding presence to the bishops. And so, with faith, hope and love, we come together, pray and we stand vigil.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer:

Presider: We gather in the name of our God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.

We gather in pain and in power, in anguish and in hope, in crisis and in faith. And we know that above all, we gather in the presence of our Loving God. So we pray:

O Sophia, Holy Wisdom of God, you who were present at the creation of all the world, we call on you to be present with us this night. Fill the hearts of your faithful people gathered here, and the hearts of our bishops in earnest deliberation. Give us all the courage of humility, the strength to speak the truth, and the wisdom to find your justice. All of this we ask in the name of our crucified and risen brother, Jesus.

Assembly: Amen

Sprinkling Rite