

Prayers and Actions for Healing From the Clerical Abuse Scandal

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

-from usccb.org

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.

Prayer for Priests

- from Pope Benedict XVI

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,
you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross
and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your
priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.
Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial
priesthood may be ever more conformed to you,
the Divine Master.

May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear
conscience.
Let them be shepherds according to your own heart,
single-minded in service to you and to the Church, and
shining examples of a holy, simple, and joyful life.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
your Mother and ours,
draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care
to the fullness of eternal life
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Actions for the Laity

1. **Pray:** Remember that prayer is powerful, and that our actions should always be informed by and flow from our prayers. In prayer we ask and expect God to bless our actions. Consider adding a morning offering, the prayer to St. Michael, or a rosary into your daily prayer routine for the sake of the Church.
2. **Fast:** Proclaim a fast (from food, social media, or some other pleasure) and offer your sacrifice as reparation for the sins of the guilty and for healing for the victims.
3. **Gather:** Now more than ever it is important to come to Mass on Sunday, to gather as a community of believers who are seeking healing. Look for other opportunities to pray, such as Eucharistic Adoration.
4. **Participate:** Attend one of the upcoming listening sessions or prayer services our parishes will be offering. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.
5. **Let Your Voice be Heard:** You can contact the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through their website, usccb.org, by phone, (202) 541-3000 (ask for the Child and Youth Protection Dept), or by mail at 3211 4th St. NE, Washington D.C. 20017.
6. **Be in Dialogue:** Contact our parish priests or staff if you want to talk, cry, process, or share ideas. We are here for you and we are ready to listen. See the bulletin for contact information.

If you are a survivor of sexual abuse, know that we are praying for you and have resources available to help you.

Contact Mandy Bibo,

Victim Assistant Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, at 414- 758-2232.

If you would like to report independent of the Archdiocese, contact The Healing Center at 414-671-4325.

I TURNED TO THE
LORD GOD,
TO SEEK HELP,
IN PRAYER AND
PETITION, WITH
FASTING,
SACKCLOTH,
AND ASHES.

DANIEL 9:3