

PROMISE TO
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
RESOURCE GUIDE**

APRIL 2018



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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Create a “blue ribbon tree” at your chancery, parishes or schools, encouraging children and adults to tie a blue ribbon around a specific tree (the trunk and the branches) in honor of child abuse prevention. You could even designate a different color ribbon (or a different shade of blue) to represent the victims of abuse that have come forward in your diocese). You could also have each person say a prayer for those who have been abused as they tie on their ribbon.
- Create a “[Pinwheel Garden](#)” to serve as a reminder for child abuse prevention.
- Have a “[Wear Blue Day](#)” encouraging adults (and even children) to wear blue to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.
- Host a “Listening Session” to hear the concerns from parents and the community about what they would like to see happen regarding child and youth protection and victim/survivor outreach.
- Schedule time throughout the month to say a [Rosary](#) for victims/survivors of abuse.
- Celebrate a [Holy Hour for Healing](#) for victims/survivors of abuse and reconciliation for the Church.
- Take time before or after Mass to recognize those who have both trained others in safe environment programs and those who have been trained.
- Celebrate the [Order for the Blessing of a Victim of Crime or Oppression](#). The blessing is intended to assist the victim and help him or her come to a state of tranquility and peace. These orders can be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rite and prayers designated for a lay minister.
- Hang these [posters](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) in your parish or school.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

General

- In 1982, President Reagan proclaimed April to be the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and that tradition continues today. This April, take a moment to learn what you can do to prevent abuse. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/child-abuse-prevention/ten-points-to-create-safe-environments-for-children.cfm>
- Be a hero for a child. Report suspected or disclosed child abuse immediately!
- If a child discloses abuse to you, stay calm and listen to them. Reassure them it was not their fault, and that you are there for them. As soon as possible, report the disclosure to law enforcement or a child protection agency.
- The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention. As a symbol of childhood and innocence, the pinwheel is a reminder that every child deserves a joyful childhood, free from abuse and other harm. <http://preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/>
- Every adult is an ethical reporter of suspected child abuse, but some are mandatory reporters. Do you know the mandatory reporting law for suspected child abuse in your state?
- National Blue Sunday “a day of prayer for abused children and those who rescue them” is coming up on April 29, 2018. Join other churches across the nation in praying for children who have been abused, and for the prevention of future abuse: <https://janetmagee.wixsite.com/newblue>
- Physical punishment of children, including corporal punishment, has been found to be ineffective and does not improve a child’s behavior. Physical punishment also puts children at risk for serious injury, physical abuse, and mental health problems.

Statistics—General

- Research estimates 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18. Take safe environment training to learn how to identify and prevent abuse!
- The abuse of minors can lead to serious psychological problems. According to one study, 80% of 21-year-olds who reported childhood abuse met the criteria for at least one psychological disorder: <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>
- One in 4 children have experienced abuse or neglect at some point in their lives, and 1 in 7 children experienced abuse in the last year, according to self-reports from the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV): <https://www.cdc.gov/features/healthychildren/index.html>
- A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds: <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>

General—Church

- In Matthew 18:5, Jesus says “whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” It takes the responsibility of all adults to keep children and youth safe from abuse.
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/matthew/18>
- In Mark 10:14, Jesus says “Let the little children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Children and young people are gifts from God and deserve to be safe from all harm, including abuse.
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/mark/10>
- If you or someone you know has been abused by a member of the Church, please contact *(list name and contact info on Victim Assistance Coordinator)* to report it and to learn about healing opportunities within the *(arch)diocese of (name diocese)*.
- Learn more about what the Catholic Church has done to promote healing for those who have been abused and to prevent future abuse: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/index.cfm>
- Take a look at the bishops’ response to bring healing to those who have been sexually abused within the Church, as well as the prevention efforts to protect children and adults from abuse: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2011-Charter-booklet.pdf>
- People do what is expected of them based on their culture. Let’s all work together to create a culture of protection and healing within the Church.
- Did you know our *(arch)diocese* offers safe environment classes to protect children and youth from abuse? Find out more about how you can take the class: *(insert link)*
- Do you know what the Diocese of *(insert name of diocese)* is doing for the prevention of child abuse? Find out here – *(insert link to diocesan policies or child protection website)*.

Statistics—Church

- The Catholic Church in the U.S. provided age appropriate safe environment abuse prevention training to more than 4 million children and youth in Catholic Schools and in parish religious education programs.
- Last year, over 2 million adults were background checked and received safe environment training in the Church.
- Find out what the Catholic Church has done to protect children and young people from sexual abuse in the 2016 Annual Report: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2016-Annual-Report.pdf>

Quotes from Pope Francis

- “Let us work together, then, so that we will always have the right, the courage and the joy to be able to look into the eyes of the children of our world.” - Pope Francis
https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2017/october/documents/papa-francesco_20171006_congresso-childdignity-digitalworld.html
- “The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenseless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community as a whole. Aware of this, the Church is especially vigilant in protecting children and vulnerable adults.”- Pope Francis
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161228_santi-innocenti.html
- “The duty of care and protection devolves upon the whole Church, yet it is especially through her Pastors that it must be exercised. Therefore diocesan Bishops, Eparchs and those who have the responsibility for a Particular Church must pay vigilant attention to protecting the weakest of those entrusted to her care.”- Pope Francis
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161228_santi-innocenti.html

Resources

- Founded by a survivor of child sexual abuse, Spirit Fire is a new ministry that promotes Christian restorative justice for adults, families and faith communities wounded by child abuse: <https://spiritfirelive.wordpress.com/>
- If you or someone you know has been abused, the Maria Goretti Network is a wonderful resource: <https://mgoretti.org/>
- Get free resources for talking with your children and teens about cyberbullying, internet safety and social media at NetSmartz: <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>
- Get free resources for teaching children about personal safety, healthy boundaries and more from KidSmartz: <http://www.kidsmartz.org/>
- Learn more about cyberbullying, sexting, and social media by downloading free Tip Sheets from NetSmartz: <http://www.netsmartz.org/TipSheets>
- You can use the CyberTipline, offered by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to report online sexual abuse and child pornography.
<http://www.missingkids.com/gethelpnow/cybertipline>

Prayers

- May God the Merciful Father bring comfort and healing to victims and survivors of sexual abuse within the Church.
- We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Church leaders as they promote justice and healing for victims and survivors of abuse.
- We pray for our Holy Father, that he may fulfill his role as good shepherd, and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.
- May all civic leaders act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people.
- May all who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- We pray that all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.
- May those who have been abused experience Christ's profound love for them and God's healing powers.
- We pray that all who provide help for the abused may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- We pray that God may grant those affected by abuse in anyway the courage to tell their story and seek healing.
- May all priests and religious, through their teaching and witness, lead children and young people to holiness.
- We pray that the bishops continue to carry out their promise to protect, and pledge to heal, the most vulnerable in their dioceses.
- We pray that all parish communities affected by abuse find healing and reconciliation through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

BULLETIN BLURBS

- **Did you know: Sexual molestation is about the victim**

Many people are affected by abuse but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are all affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

- **Did you know: No one has the right to have access to children**

If people wish to volunteer for the Church, for example, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.

- **Did you know: Common sense is not all that common**

It is naive to presume that people automatically know boundaries so organizations and families don't have to spell them out. Dioceses, schools, parishes, and especially families, must educate themselves and others on how to protect children.

- **Did you know: Child sexual abuse can be prevented**

Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

- **Did you know: The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime**

Those who have been abused seldom just “get over it.” The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Some have even described the feeling as if it has scarred their soul. Those who have been abused can heal, but it often takes time, therapy, and the support of loved ones. As a Church, we can help support those who have been abused by keeping them in prayer and providing opportunities for healing

- **Did you know: Feeling heard leads toward healing**

Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one's pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged. Not being acknowledged contributes to a victim's sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way revictimized.

- **Did you know: You cannot always predict who will be an abuser**

Experience shows that most abuse is committed by someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family. With child sexual abuse, sixty percent of the time the offender is a family friend, acquaintance, or another trusted adult in the victim/survivor's life. Thirty percent of the time the offender is a family member. Sometimes an offender seems like the nicest person in the world, but this is often part of a process they use called "grooming" in order to gain the trust of the child they wish to abuse and the trust of his/her family.

- **Did you know: There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers**

Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which includes wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults.

- **Did you know: People can be taught to identify grooming behavior**

Grooming behavior are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, sharing alcohol with a minor and giving the child status by insinuating that the child is their favorite or special person. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

- **Did you know: Background checks work.**

Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie.

HOMILY HELPS—TALKING POINTS

- Throughout the Gospel, Christ calls upon his followers to care for the most vulnerable among us, especially children. Our faith also calls for us to uphold the value of human life and the dignity of the human person. The protection of children is the responsibility of the entire Church, including the faithful.
- During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are reminded of the call to be instruments of justice, working for the common good of all, which includes the protection of children. As Jesus entrusts to Peter the care of the flock, we are reminded that this responsibility belongs to everyone as a matter of charity and justice. Child Abuse Prevention Month should lead to heightened awareness of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment for all within the Church and for our communities.
- Recent statistics tell us one out of every four girls, and one out of every six boys, are assaulted before they turn 18. If those statistics are correct, on every Sunday in our congregation are people who have been abused and are feeling the pain of that abuse. Reaching out to all victims of abuse is critical in bringing hope and the love of Christ to them. Our diocese is here to provide anyone suffering from abuse with steps towards healing.
- We are all part of a larger culture of protection and healing within the Church. As members of this culture, we value the prevention of abuse and the support of those who have been abused. Each of one of us can play an important role in strengthening this culture. For example, we can better prevent abuse by ensuring that the signs of abuse are identified and reported when first noticed. Noticing these warning signs, taking them seriously, and reporting them could prevent abuse in the future. We can also play a role in victim outreach by offering support, compassion, and prayers to those close to us who have been abused. The importance we place on carrying out these acts of charity will go a long way in creating a culture within our Church where children are safe and victim/survivors find healing.

HOMILY HELPS—BIBLES VERSES

- * Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (EX 20:12)
- * Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; A graceful diadem will they be for your head; a pendant for your neck. (PV 1: 8-9)
- * Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it. (PV 22:6)
- * At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." (MT 18: 2-6)
- * "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." (MT 18:10)
- * Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." (MK 9: 36-37)
- * And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. (MK 10: 13-16)

PETITIONS

- For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, the bishops and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all that they may act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd, we pray to the Lord...
- For families who are the first to show God's love, that they may have the necessary support to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people, we pray to the Lord...
- For those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing powers, we pray to the Lord...
- For those who provide help for the abused: counselors, therapists, and advocates that they may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministry, we pray to the Lord...
- For those affected by abuse in anyway, that they may have the courage to tell their story, to reach for healing, we pray to the Lord...
- For any child who may be suffering from abuse, that they may find the courage to tell a trusted adult so the abuse can be stopped, and so they can begin the journey toward healing, we pray to the Lord...

SUGGESTED SONGS

- Amazing Grace
- There is a Balm in Gilead
- Envia Tu, Espiritu
- As Grains of Wheat
- Flow River, Flow (Hurd)
- You Know Me, Lord
- Shelter Me, O God
- May the Lord Bless You (Grayson Brown)
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- Heal Me, O God (Norbet)
- Restless is the Heart
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Here I am, Lord
- Blest are They
- All Are Welcome
- In Every Age (Whitaker)
- On Eagle's Wings
- Your Grace is Enough



SAMPLE PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING

Opening Song: Here I am, Lord

Opening Prayer:

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy – mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness – never forgetting God’s love. We come together with praise – for each other and those who assist us on this journey.

No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 142

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

With full voice I cry to the LORD; with full voice I beseech the LORD.

Before God I pour out my complaint, lay bare my distress.

My spirit is faint within me, but you know my path.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Along the way I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

I look to my right hand, but no friend is there.

There is no escape for me; no one cares for me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

I cry out to you, LORD, I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Listen to my cry for help, for I am brought very low.

Rescue me from my pursuers, for they are too strong for me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Lead me out of my prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

Then the just shall gather around me because you have been good to me.

R: You, O Lord are my refuge

Other suggested readings:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18 - *The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.*

Job 3:1-26 - *Lamentation of Job.*

Lamentations 3:1-24 - *I am one who knows affliction.*

Lamentations 3:49-59 - *When I called, you came to my aid.*

Micah 4:1-4 - *Every person shall sit undisturbed.*

The Gospel reading:

Matthew: 10:28-33 - *Do Not Fear*

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.

Other suggested readings

Matthew 5:1-10 - *The beatitudes.*

Matthew 5:43-48 - *Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.*

Luke 10:25-37 - *The good Samaritan*

Intercessions:

R: Christ graciously hear us.

For community and political leaders to model justice and right living; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For priests to truly mirror Christ's goodness and love; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For families to nourish and foster their children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For teachers to respect and call forth the goodness and wholeness in children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all adults to enrich the lives of children; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all who support and contribute to our ministry; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

For all the needs of the world; Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

Litany for Healing:

(During the Litany candles can be lit)

Our response will be **Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children wounded and tearful; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children confused or alone; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid or abandoned; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children beaten; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children who sleep in fear; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid to go home; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children afraid of their abusers; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children assaulted and for children who assault; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For children whose innocence has been stolen; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those who cannot trust; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those who cannot love; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

For those whose hearts are filled with fear; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**

After the intercessions and litany the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All: **Our Father...**

Blessing and Dismissal:

Lord God,
your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,
yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with his Blood on the cross.
Relieve the suffering of those present today (or name);
grant them (him/her) peace of mind
and a renewed faith in your protection and care.
Protect us all from the violence of others,
keep us safe from the weapons of hate,
and restore to us tranquility and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace.

R. Amen.

Song: Be not Afraid, or Prayer of St. Francis

SERVICIO DE LA PALABRA PARA SANACIÓN

(Ejemplo)

Canto Inicial: ¡Aquí estoy, Señor!

Oración Inicial:

Sacerdote/diácono: La gracia y la paz de Cristo este con todos ustedes.

R. Y con tu espíritu.

Laico: Que Dios, al que unánimes alabamos, nos conceda, por su Espíritu, estar de acuerdo entre nosotros.

R. Amén.

Oh Dios, nadie está lejos de ti. Nos reunimos en la alegría, conscientes de las cargas que llevamos, las heridas y los dolores que tenemos. Nos reunimos con alegría, sin olvidar el amor de Dios. Nos reunimos en la oración, por cada uno y por todos aquellos que nos ayudan en este viaje.

Oh Dios, nadie está lejos de ti y recurrimos a tu poder llamándote en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo.

Primera Lectura:

Isaías 59:6b-8, 15-18 *El Señor está consternado por el mal y la injusticia.*

Sus obras son obras inicuas
y acciones violentas hay en sus manos.
Sus pies corren al mal
y se apresuran a verter sangre inocente.
Sus proyectos son proyectos inicuos,
destrucción y quebranto en sus caminos.
Camino de paz no conocen,
y derecho no hay en sus pasos.
Tuercen sus caminos para provecho propio,
ninguno de los que por ellos pasan conoce la paz.

La verdad se echa en falta
y el que se aparta del mal es despojado.
Lo vio Yahvé y pareció mal a sus ojos
que no hubiera derecho.
Vio que no había nadie
y se maravilló de que no hubiera intercesor.

Entonces le salvó su brazo
y su justicia le sostuvo.
Se puso la justicia como coraza
y el casco de salvación en su cabeza.

Se puso como túnica vestidos de venganza
y se vistió el celo como un manto.
Según los merecimientos así pagará:
ira para sus opresores y represalia para sus enemigos.
Dará a las islas su merecido.

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 142
R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

A gritos imploro a Yahvé,
a Yahvé suplico a gritos.
Derramo ante él mi lamento,
ante él expongo mi angustia,
cuando mi aliento se apaga;
mas tú conoces mi sendero.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

En el camino por donde voy
me han escondido una trampa.
Mira a la derecha, y ve,
no hay nadie que me conozca.
No hay refugio para mí,
nadie que de mí se cuide.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

Por eso, a ti clamo, Yahvé;
te digo: ¡Tú eres mi refugio,
mi porción en la tierra de los vivos!
Presta atención a mi clamor,
pues estoy del todo abatido.

R: Oh Señor, Tú eres mi refugio

¡Líbrame de mis perseguidores,
pues son más fuertes que yo!
¡Saca mi vida de la cárcel
para dar gracias a tu nombre!
Y me harán corro los justos
por tus favores conmigo.

Otras lecturas sugeridas:

Job 3, 1-26 – *Maldito el día que nació.*

Lamentaciones 3, 1-24 – *Yo soy quien conoce la aflicción.*

Lamentaciones 3, 49-59 – *Cuando yo callé, tú viniste en mi ayuda.*

Miqueas 4, 1-4 – *Cada persona deberá sentarse sin molestias.*

Lectura del Evangelio:

No tengan miedo a los que matan el cuerpo.

Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Mateo 10, 28-33

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a sus apóstoles: No tengan miedo a los que matan el cuerpo, pero no pueden matar el alma. Teman, más bien, a quien puede arrojar al lugar de castigo el alma y el cuerpo.

¿No es verdad que se venden dos pajarillos por una moneda? Sin embargo, ni uno solo de ellos cae por tierra si no lo permite el Padre. En cuanto a ustedes, hasta los cabellos de su cabeza están contados. Por lo tanto, no tengan miedo, porque ustedes valen mucho más que todos los pájaros del mundo.

A quien me reconozca delante de los hombres, yo también lo reconoceré ante mi Padre, que está en los cielos; pero al que me niegue delante de los hombres, yo también lo negaré ante mi Padre, que está en los cielos.”

Palabra del Señor.

Otras lecturas sugeridas:

Mateo 5, 1-10 – *Las Bienaventuranzas.*

Mateo 5, 43-48 – *Ama a tus enemigos, reza por aquellos que te persiguen.*

Luke 10:25-37 – *El buen Samaritano*

Oración de los Fieles:

Por los líderes comunitarios y políticos para que sean modelos de justicia y de vida recta.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por los sacerdotes para que reflejen realmente la bondad y el amor de Cristo.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Para que las familias puedan alimentar y cuidar a sus hijos.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Para que los maestros respeten y susciten la bondad y la integridad de los niños.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todos los adultos para que enriquezcan la vida de los niños.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todos aquellos que apoyan y contribuyen a nuestro ministerio.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Por todas las necesidades del mundo.

R: Cristo, escúchanos.

Letanía para la Sanación:

(Durante las Letanía las velas pueden ser encendidas)

Nuestra respuesta será: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños heridos y acongojados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños confundidos o solos: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños temerosos y abandonados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños golpeados: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que duermen con miedo: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que tienen miedo de volver a casa: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños que tienen miedo de sus agresores: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños ultrajados y por los niños que han ultrajado a otros: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por los niños cuya inocencia ha sido robada: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos que no pueden confiar: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos que no pueden amar: **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Por aquellos cuyos corazones están llenos de miedo **R: ¡Salva, sana y protégelos, oh Señor!**

Después de las intercesiones y las letanías el ministro, con estas o palabras similares, invita a todos los presentes a cantar o a decir el Padre Nuestro

El Señor cura nuestras heridas y nos fortalece en nuestras debilidades; oremos como Cristo nos ha enseñado:

Todos: Padre Nuestro...

Bendición y Despedida:

Señor, Dios,
tu propio Hijo fue entregado en manos de los pecadores,
sin embargo, él rezó por sus perseguidores y venció el odio con su Sangre en la cruz.

Alivia el sufrimiento de los aquí presentes (o nombre);
concédeles (a él / a ella) la paz de la mente
y una fe renovada en su protección y cuidado.
Protégenos a todos de la violencia de otros,
manténnos seguros de las armas del odio,
y restaura en nosotros la tranquilidad y la paz.
Te lo pedimos a través de Cristo nuestro Señor

Que Dios nos bendiga con su misericordia, nos Fortalezca con su amor y nos permita caminar en la caridad y en la paz. **R. Amén.**

Canto: No tengas Miedo o Hazme un Instrumento de tu Paz