



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

October 30, 2018

Dear Parishioners:

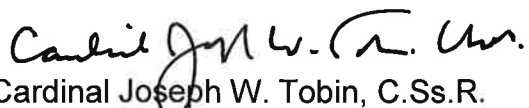
The U.S. bishops are joining together in a commitment of prayer and reparation leading up to the bishops' General Assembly, when we will be making critical decisions in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis. With my brother bishops across the nation, I will be dedicating myself to seven days of intensified prayer and fasting, from Monday, November 5, through Sunday, November 11. The intentions for this period of prayer and sacrifice are three-fold:

- *For the healing and support of all victims of clergy sexual abuse*
- *For the conversion and just punishment of the perpetrators and concealers of sexual abuse*
- *For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading our sheep from all harm*

If you feel called to do so, you are welcome to join me in praying for these intentions. I would also be grateful for any prayers for me and my brother bishops during our General Assembly, that we may follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in responding to the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse in the Church.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, as well.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,


Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

jn

Archdiocesan Center

171 CLIFTON AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 9500 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104-0500 • (973) 497-4004 • FAX (973) 497-4018



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Dear Brother Priests,

The September 19 Statement of the USCCB Administrative Committee invited all U.S. bishops to join together in acts of prayer and penance: "This is a time of deep examination of conscience for each bishop. We cannot content ourselves that our response to sexual assault within the Church has been sufficient. Scripture must be our guide forward, 'be doers of the word and not hearers only' (James 1:22)" I wholeheartedly support such a nationwide, bishop-led effort of prayer and reparation, especially leading up to the upcoming bishops' General Assembly.

With brother bishops across the nation, I will be dedicating myself to seven days of intensified prayer and sacrifice, from Monday, November 5, through Sunday, November 11. The intentions for this period of prayer and fasting are three-fold:

- *For the healing and support of all victims of clergy sexual abuse*
- *For the conversion and just punishment of the perpetrators and concealers of sexual abuse*
- *For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm*

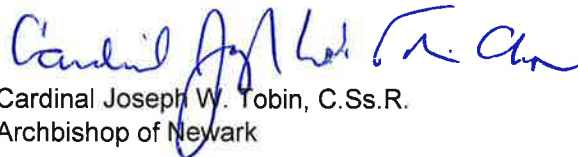
While you are most welcome to join in praying for these intentions, this is specifically an effort of prayer and reparation by the bishops. I would also appreciate your prayers for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all the bishops, especially during the General Assembly, where we will be making critical decisions in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

The following attachments are provided to assist you in sharing this effort with your parishioners. Feel free to use or adapt as you see appropriate:

- *Letter from me to parishioners*
- *Sample pulpit announcement*
- *Suggested Prayer of the Faithful intentions for Mass*

Thank you for your willingness to pray with me and for me as I join my brother bishops in this nationwide effort of prayer and reparation.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Enclosures

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Suggested Announcement

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. and bishops nationwide are joining in seven days of prayer and fasting prior to their General Assembly in November, where they will make critical decisions regarding the tragedy of clergy abuse. A letter with more details from Cardinal Tobin is available on the parish website (or in the parish bulletin).

Prayer of the Faithful: Suggested Intentions

For the healing and support
of all victims and survivors of clergy abuse;
We pray to the Lord:

For the conversion and just punishment
of the perpetrators and concealers of clergy abuse;
We pray to the Lord:

For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds
in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm;
We pray to the Lord:

For the Holy Spirit's guidance of our bishops in responding to the tragedy of clergy
sexual abuse in the Church;
We pray to the Lord: