

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:27 PM
Subject: Update Letter to Priests
Attachments: USCCB - 2531_001.pdf

Brother priests,

In addition to our daily prayers for those suffering with the COVID-19 coronavirus, all who are sick and dying, our medical professionals and first responders, all who are experiencing problems and anxieties, and all who are making difficult choices and sacrifices during this extraordinary time, there are a number of other prayers called for on this day:

- 1- For Rev. Mr. Stephen Ondrey of our Diocese, who was ordained a deacon (transitional) today at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston (Boston), MA. May he continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Gospel in both word and in deed.
- 2- For our brother priest, Mark Ghiloni, who will be having a heart catheterization procedure this Friday. May he have a safe procedure and any issues identified at that time be remedied.
- 3- For our farmers and all who work the land in this planting season:

O God, Source and Giver of all things, Who manifests Your infinite majesty, power and goodness in the earth about us, we give You honor and glory.

For the sun and rain, for the manifold fruits of our fields, for the increase of our herds and flocks we thank You. For the enrichment of our souls with divine grace, we are grateful.

Supreme Lord of the harvest, graciously accept us and the fruits of our toil, in union with Christ Your Son, as atonement for our sins, for the growth of Your Church, for peace and charity in our homes, for salvation to all. Amen.

(Prayer Source: Novena in Honor of St. Isidore: Patron of Farmers by National Catholic Rural Life)

Prayer of Farmers

Heavenly Father, King of the Universe, you are the sole source of abundance. With your help I plant my crops and by your power they give forth a harvest. Grant me the grace always to work with all my strength and ingenuity in cultivating the soil so that it will bring forth fruits for my benefits and the benefit of all who will use them. Make me ever cognizant that without my part in the work of harnessing the goods of the earth, these particular goods would be lacking to my brothers and sisters in this world. Enable me at the same time to realize that without your part in this process I would be working in vain. Accept my thanks for your continuous help in the past and your never failing assistance in the future. Amen.

4- For all who have been impacted by severe weather and tornados -- may aid and relief be both abundant and swift. (Also, see attachment from the USCCB.)

Let us continue to turn to the Lord in our time of need for divine wisdom, guidance, strength and perseverance, and continue to pray for one another. Let us also pray the prayer of our patron saint, Saint Francis de Sales, which is a fitting prayer at any time in our lives, but especially now:

*Do not look forward in fear to the changes and chances of this life;
Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise,
God, to whom you belong will in His love enable you to profit by them.
He has guided you thus far in life, and He will lead you safely through all trials;
and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in His arms.*

*Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same everlasting Father who cares for you today
will take care of you then and every day.
He will either shield you from suffering,
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.*

Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations. Amen.

Fraternally,

Bishop Brennan



NEWS

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USCCB President and Committee Chairman Call for Prayers, Hope, and Assistance Following Deadly Storms in the South

April 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, have issued the following statement after severe weather killed at least 19 people in the South late Sunday into early Monday morning. In their statement, Archbishops Gomez and Coakley call for prayer and assistance for all those who were in the path of the storm, as well as hope in the good news of Easter.

Full statement from Archbishops Gomez and Coakley follows:

“This Easter Monday began with the sad news that storms swept through multiple states in the South overnight, killing at least 19 people at the time of this statement across Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, and South Carolina. The weather also inflicted significant damage in Texas, Louisiana, and West Virginia. Many people have suffered damage or loss of their homes.

“In the midst of these tragedies, we must reach out and offer assistance to those affected, especially those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. This situation is made even more difficult by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those who are suffering, for those who have died, and for the first responders who are courageously offering help. We also pray for those who remain in the path of these storms and for their safety and well-being.

“In the Gospel this morning, we hear the Lord after his resurrection tell Mary Magdalene and the other women, ‘Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.’ (Mt. 28:10). The letter to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in God’s promise as ‘an anchor of the soul, sure and firm.’ (cf. Heb. 6:19). In the midst of disasters from weather and illness, we cling to this hope, that God can redeem our suffering and loss, that God is present to us even now, and that the Lord has conquered death for all time, inviting us to see him face to face in eternal life.”
