

Solemnity of All Saints  
November 1, 2020



SAINTS CYRIL AND  
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST SVĚTÝCH  
CYRILA A METODA



A Personal Parish Established To Serve The Slovak Catholic Community In The Archdiocese Of Detroit



## ALL SAINTS



"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great  
in heaven." - Mt 5:12a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314 • (586) 726-6911 • Fax: (586) 685-1070 • [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church)

## October 31, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM For Yvette Berman (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Al and Ann Varchetti  
 ❖ For Samantha Shamoon (B'Day)
- 5:30PM For Vicki Babbie ❖ For Nedhal Aziz  
 ❖ For Amy Perugi req. Ken & Mary Ann  
 ❖ For Ernest & Maria Gaiera  
 ❖ For Paulette Kranik  
 ❖ †Edward Polakowski req. Wife, Shirley  
 ❖ †Hasina Babbie (Ann)

## November 1, Solemnity of All Saints - Nedela

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a (667)

- 7:30AM For George & Helen Emmendorfer  
 ❖ For Derek Chandler  
 ❖ For the Meyou Sisters  
 ❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
 ❖ †Richard Walczyk req. Lucille Zreliak  
 ❖ †Daniel Fluker req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
 ❖ †Christina Loccrichio req. Friend ❖ †Gene Kucharek  
 ❖ †William Porter req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
- 9:30AM President Trump req. Annette Rudzewicz  
 ❖ For Jenna Hines (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Lucas Dubon (B'Day)  
 ❖ †Matthew Margiewicz  
 ❖ For Marie Hollerud  
 ❖ For the Dec. Members of the Knights of Columbus St. Nicholas Council & their Families ❖ †Richard Charen  
 ❖ †For Julia Russo ❖ †Robleto Pablo  
 ❖ †Benedict Evola req. Shermetaro's
- 11:30AM (Slovak) For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 ❖ For Zuzana Puschenreiter (B'Day) req. Kopil's  
 ❖ For Tibor and Iveta Kopil (5th Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ For Judy Schmidt  
 ❖ For Drana Gojhij  
 ❖ †Paul Szwarc ❖ †Peter Piatek
- 6:00PM (Tridentine)  
 For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM For the Citizens of the United States  
 ❖ For Antonina Albino & Family  
 ❖ For the Shamoon Family  
 ❖ For the Conversion of Sinners ❖ For Akhla Gappy  
 ❖ For Patrick, Stephanie & Emmanuel Korkis  
 ❖ For Nagham & Anthony Korkis  
 ❖ †Ruth Bader Ginsburg req. Vicki  
 ❖ †Paolo Persichetti req. Annette & Gary Rudzewicz

## November 2, Monday – Pondelok

- 9:00AM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena  
 12:00PM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 7:00PM For All Deceased Parishioners

## November 3, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM For the Noel Nelson Family ❖ For Lexi Laconi  
 ❖ For Michelle Bartold (54th B'Day)
- 12:00PM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena

## November 4, Wednesday – Streda

- 9:00AM (Latin) For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena  
 12:00PM For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
 ❖ †Matthew Burke (Ann.) ❖ †Robleto Pablo

## November 5, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 ❖ For Fr. Elijah Washington & All Priests  
 ❖ For Edward & Mary Kelly
- 12:00PM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena

- 7:00PM For Franko, Andy, Mary & Joseph  
 ❖ †Alessandro, Loreta, & Giovanna Pacitto  
 ❖ †William Porter req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny

## November 6, First Friday – Prvý Piatok

- 6:00AM †Anna Sutherland  
 ❖ †Jacquelyn Pantano req. Family  
 ❖ †William Porter req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny
- 12:00PM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena  
 ❖ For the Rosary Makers & their Families  
 ❖ †Cynthia Yanik req. Family  
 ❖ †Joe Basirico
- 7:00PM For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life  
 ❖ †Greg & Mary Manning & Family  
 ❖ †David Chupa

## November 7, First Saturday – Prvý Sobota

- 9:00AM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena  
 5:30PM \*Memorial Mass  
 ❖ For all Deceased Parishioners  
 ❖ For the Members of the Rosary Society  
 ❖ For Clair Schefke (B'Day)  
 ❖ For Adam and Lauren Miller (5th Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family  
 ❖ †Gary Gasparski req. Family  
 ❖ †Fred & Shirley Ross  
 ❖ †Joe Basirico

## November 8, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14; Mt 25:1-13 (154)

- 7:30AM For a Special Intention  
 ❖ For Bob  
 ❖ For Andrea Moury  
 ❖ For Nancy Bobola  
 ❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
 ❖ †Daniel Fluker req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
 ❖ †Richard Walczyk
- 9:30AM For the Intentions of the All Souls Day Novena
- 11:30AM (Slovak)  
 In Thanksgiving Kola Peter Gojcaj  
 ❖ For Yousif Hamama  
 ❖ For Drana Gojhij  
 ❖ †Paul Magusin  
 ❖ †Vladimir & Terezia Krizik req. Sobolic Family  
 ❖ †Stefan & Anna Sobolic req. Sobolic Family  
 ❖ †Leonard Hicks
- 6:00PM (Tridentine)  
 For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM For Deacon Gerald & Virginia req. Annette & Gary  
 ❖ For Joe and Mary Anne Olson (50th Wed. Ann.)  
 ❖ For Fran Schena req. the Nash-Brown Family  
 ❖ For the Meyou Sisters req. Nedhal Aziz  
 ❖ For Viktor, Prella & Family  
 ❖ †William Porter req. Dennis & Cindy Zitny  
 ❖ †Germaine Malburg



## Wedding Banns!

November 7, 2020: Katharine Moses & Douglas Wright

† Entered Into Eternal Life †

James Stelzer  
 Margaret Wagner

## Solemnity of All Saints • November 1, 2020

# Welcome

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • [lmarek@saintcyrls.church](mailto:lmarek@saintcyrls.church)

Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • [jnuota@saintcyrls.church](mailto:jnuota@saintcyrls.church)

Deacon Phil McCown • [wadephil@yahoo.com](mailto:wadephil@yahoo.com)

Deacon Gerald Smigell • [vgsmigell@gmail.com](mailto:vgsmigell@gmail.com)

Parish Office • [parishoffice@saintcyrls.church](mailto:parishoffice@saintcyrls.church)

### Holy Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration & Office Schedules

#### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAYS: 9AM & 5:30PM (Vigil)

SUNDAYS: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM (Slovak), 6 PM (Latin Tridentine) & 8:30PM

MONDAYS: 9AM & 12PM

TUESDAYS: 6AM & 12PM

WEDNESDAYS: 9AM & 12PM

THURSDAYS: 6AM, 12PM & 7PM

FRIDAYS: 6AM & 12PM

#### \*WEEKDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

TUESDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

WEDNESDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

THURSDAYS: 11AM - 5PM

FRIDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

\*Office is closed during 12 PM Holy Mass

Face masks must be worn at all times in the Church building.

Please keep 6' social distancing.

**CONFESSIONS  
INDOORS  
beginning  
Monday, November 2**

#### CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM & Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Registration for Confession is Required: [www.saintcyrls.church](http://www.saintcyrls.church)

Confessions are *inside in the Cry Room*. Please line up in the reserved pews in the back of the church.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: EVERY THURSDAY: 1:00PM - 7:00PM** (in the Church)

## COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

November is All Souls' Month. In Christian charity, we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and offer up Masses for the relief of their suffering. We especially remember our dearly departed relatives and friends. For this, you are invited to list the names of your loved ones who passed away this year in our Remembrance Book which is located in the vestibule. It will be brought into the church during the month of November. Throughout November, the Masses will be said for the souls of the people whose names are inscribed in the Remembrance Book.

#### **Remembering Our Beloved Deceased**

#### **Memorial Mass and Service • Saturday, November 7, 5:30PM Holy Mass**

For Our Deceased Parishioners and Friends

*"Precious in the Eyes of Lord is the Death of His Faithful Ones"*

Phyllis Jean O'Neil, Robert John Leonard, Edwin George Laabs, Mary Jane Grivas, Paolo David Persichetti

Mary Catherine Lucas, Paul Magusin, Jr., Gary Charles Polisano, Maxine Klim, Paul Joseph Palace

Diane Roberta Corrigan-Calley, Timothy R. Konowalski, Brenda DiGiovanni, Brian Keith Czach

Sylvia A. Bieniek, Anna Nota, Richard Thomas Walczyk, Germaine Malburg, Marilyn Paielli

Kevin Dalzell, Mary Elizabeth Klebans, William John Mumby, Michael Andrew Zeranick, Iole Goetz

Joseph Michael Vassallo, Albert Jerome Krakosky, Patricia Ann Doak, James Francis Mullen

Listed above are the names of our dearly departed parishioners and friends who entered into Eternal Life in the past year. Family, friends and fellow parishioners are cordially invited to the Memorial Mass and Service held on their behalf. The Memorial Mass and Service take place next Saturday, November 7, at 5:30PM.

#### **Memorial Display Wall**

A Memorial wall with pictures of the deceased listed above  
is displayed in the vestibule





**Holy Mass Schedule on All Souls Day • Monday, November 2: 9:00AM, 12:00PM & 7:00PM**  
**Confession Update Beginning All Souls Day • Monday, November 2**  
**Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM-11:30AM and Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM-7:00PM**  
**Registration for Confession is required: [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church)**  
**Beginning Monday, Confessions will take place INSIDE (in the Cry Room).**  
**Please line up in the reserved pews in the back of the church.**

### November Indulgences for "The Holy Souls in Purgatory"

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Plenary or full indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November for the souls of the faithful in purgatory can now be gained throughout the entire month of November, the Vatican said.

Also, those who are ill or homebound and would not be able to physically visit a church or cemetery in the prescribed timeframe still will be able to receive a plenary indulgence when meeting certain conditions, the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal that deals with matters of conscience, said in a notice released October 23.

The tribunal also asked that priests be particularly generous throughout November in offering the sacrament of reconciliation and in administering Communion to those who are infirm.

The new provisions were made after a number of bishops asked for guidance as to how the faithful could perform the works required for receiving a plenary indulgence given the ongoing pandemic and restrictions in many parts of the world limiting the number of people who can gather in one place, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, told Vatican News October 23.

Traditionally, the faithful could receive a full indulgence each day from November 1 to November 8 when they visited a cemetery to pray for the departed and fulfilled other conditions, and, in particular, when they went to a church or an oratory to pray November 2, All Souls' Day.

Bishops' conferences in countries where large numbers of faithful traditionally go to confession, attend Mass and visit cemeteries during the week had asked how the faithful could be accommodated given COVID-19 restrictions or in the case that a member of the faithful was ill, in isolation or in quarantine, the cardinal said.

The Vatican decided to extend the time one can receive a full indulgence to include the whole month of November, he said. Typically, only a partial indulgence is granted after the first week of November.

The full indulgence traditionally offered November 2 for those who visit a church or an oratory and recite the Our Father and the Creed can also be gained any day in November, he added.

Those who cannot leave their homes or residence for "serious reasons," which includes government restrictions during a pandemic, he said, also can receive a plenary indulgence after reciting specific prayers for the deceased or reflecting on a Gospel reading designated for Masses of the dead before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, or by performing a work of mercy.

In all cases, one also must fulfill the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences, which demonstrate a resolve to turn away from sin and convert to God. Those conditions include: having a spirit detached from sin; going to confession as soon as possible; receiving the Eucharist as soon as possible; praying for the pope's intentions; and being united spiritually with all the faithful.

Cardinal Piacenza said his office also strongly urged all priests to celebrate Mass three times on All Souls' Day, as allowed for in a 1915 document by Pope Benedict XV.

The hope is that the availability of more Masses that day would help everyone wanting to attend Mass to do so while respecting capacity limits in churches and places of worship, he said.

The church teaches that prayer, particularly the Mass, and sacrifices may be offered on behalf of the souls in purgatory. The feast of All Souls differs from the Nov. 1 feast of All Saints precisely because it offers prayers for the eternal peace and heavenly rest of all those who died in a state of grace, but not totally purified.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."



### All Souls Day Novena Begins Monday, November 2

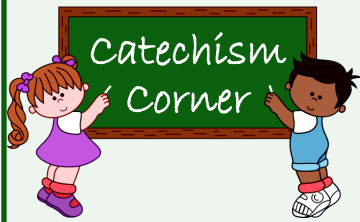
Novena Mass Cards for All Souls Day are available now. You may pick up a card in the Parish Office on Monday or you may have your card mailed to you or your loved one.

If you would like to have your card mailed, please email: [parishoffice@saintcyrils.church](mailto:parishoffice@saintcyrils.church) and put "All Souls Novena" in the subject line. List the names AND addresses of:

- ◆ where you want each individual card mailed and
- ◆ indicate how you would like each card signed
- ◆ Suggested Donation: \$10 each

You may make your donation by either using PushPay on our website or make a check payable to "Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish". In the memo line, write "All Souls Novena" and mail it to the Parish Office.

*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest gift anyone can receive.*



### Catechism Corner Early Advent Project • November 4, 11 & 18

For our Advent Project this year, the children of the Religious Education Program are learning more about charity as we meet the needs of others. The Catechism Children will be collecting items for the Wayne County Jail Chaplaincy Ministry.

Needed: Men's and Women's

**underwear, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, and razors**

These items will be collected on the following Wednesdays:

**November 4th, 11th & 18th**

Corporal Work of Mercy #6 (Visit the Prisoners) – Even though they are in prison; they are still a person to treat with respect. Not everyone can actually go to the prison to visit but we can pray for them and donate things to the prison.

#### Catechism Class Schedule:

Wednesdays, November 4, 11 & 18: **Class**

Wednesday, November 25: **NO Class**

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16: **Class**

Wednesdays, December 23 & 30: **NO Class**

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call:

Paul or Carroll Schuller, DREs: cschuller@saintcyriels.church or (586) 726-6911



### Life Teen High School Ministry

Due to a Cor Meeting this Monday, Life Teen will NOT take place. Life Nights will resume on Monday, November 9, from 6:45PM—8:45PM with the topic, **Voice of God, Hearing God's Voice in Prayer**. If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Alexandria Lewis, (586) 641-7672 or lifeteen@saintcyriels.church

### EDGE Middle School Ministry

Due to a Cor Meeting this Thursday, EDGE will NOT take place. EDGE will resume on Thursday, November 12, from 6:45PM - 8:45PM. The Night will focus on **Imitating Christ's Sacrificial Love**. The topic for girls: *As Christ Loved* and the topic for boys: *Adventure to Die for*.

If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Alexandria Lewis, (586) 641-7672 or lifeteen@saintcyriels.church

### Reporting Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (866) 343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org.

In addition the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at (844) 324-3374 (Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM) or by email at aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

More information about the Archdiocese of Detroit's efforts to address abuse may be found at protect.aod.org.

Detroitská Arcidiecéza povzbudzuje jednotlivcov, ktorí by vedeli o prípadoch sexuálneho obťažovania mladistvých zo strany kleru, aby ich ohlásili bez ohľadu na to, kedy sa tieto prípady vyskytli. Jednotlivci môžu kontaktovať orgány činné v trestnom konaní, alebo upovedomiť Detroitškú Arcidiecézu prostredníctvom koordinátora pre pomoc obetiam na tel. číslo 866-343-8055, alebo emailom vac@aod.org

Úrad generálneho prokurátora v Michigane možno kontaktovať na bezplatnom telefónnom čísle 844-324-3374 (od pondelka do piatku, od 8:00 do 17:00), alebo emailom aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Viac informácií o snahe Detroitskej Arcidiecézy predchádzať zneužívaniu je k dispozícii na adrese protect.aod.org.

### Total Consecration to Jesus thru Mary Prep Begins 11/5

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a beautiful exercise to increase our spirituality and ability to truly serve our Lord Jesus Christ. The basic premise set forth by St. Louis Marie de Montfort is simply that Jesus came into the world through Mary and that for us to always be assured of being close to Jesus, even closer than ever before, we should go through Mary. St. Louis de Montfort (1673 – 1716) developed a 33-day devotion consisting of various prayers and readings to help us to grow in holiness and increase our faith and love for our Lord. It will help us to detach ourselves from the world and bond ourselves more closely with Christ through the example and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consecration to Jesus is for anyone, who is old enough to understand the love of Jesus and Mary. The preparation is intended to prepare our hearts and minds by praying and meditating. The next preparation begins on November 5, for all who wish to make, or renew their Consecration on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. "Preparation for Total Consecration" books are available in the parish office for \$10.

Questions or to register to make (or renew) Consecration. please contact the Parish Office: (586) 726-6911

### Northland Family Planning Prayer News • November 7

Thank you for your participation in the 40 Days for Life Campaign. In November we call to mind the deceased souls in purgatory. Let us pray for all those who have died, including the unborn, and look forward to seeing/meeting all our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The next Pro-Life prayer and witness event outside the Northland Family Planning Clinic, 3810 17 Mile Road (west of Ryan Road) takes place next Saturday, November 7, 11:30AM-12:30PM. Please bring your friends and family, rosary and mask. We will observe social distancing guidelines or you may pray nearby from your car.

Questions, please contact: Anne Marie, (586) 873-2004

### Catholic Services Appeal

This year, the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) goal for our parish is \$156,616. This goal reflects the overall trend of our offertory income over the past three years, plus an adjustment of -15% due to the pandemic situation and economic hardship.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CSA. To-date, we have reached \$92,275, approximately 59% of our goal. If you have not yet contributed to CSA, please prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring gift. For more info: www.givecsa.org



## Are You Prepared to Vote? Get Your Personalized Ballot!

It is our patriotic duty and privilege to vote. Always pray before you vote.

For your personalized pro-life ballot, visit:

**RTL.org/vote**



*Together We Pray  
United We Stand  
In Prayer*

**ONLY 2 DAYS  
UNTIL THE  
PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION!**

*Outdoor Public Rosary for our Country*

*Monday, November 2, 5:30 p.m.*

*Tuesday, November 3, 5:30 p.m.*

*The Joyful Mysteries will be recited on Monday!*

*All 20 decades of the Rosary will be recited on Tuesday!*

*\*Outdoors. Please dress accordingly bring a chair & practice social distancing.*



## The Patriotic Rosary

For the Conversion of our Nation's Capital: **The Apostle's Creed**

For the Holy Father: **Our Father**

For Bishops, Priests, Religious: **Three Hail Mary's**

For the Conversion of our Country: **Glory Be & Fatima Prayer**



**For Each Hail Mary Pray:** *We plead the Blood of Jesus over (Name of State) and every soul in that state. Hail Mary...*

### FIRST MYSTERY For the President

- ♦ Alabama
- ♦ Alaska
- ♦ Arkansas
- ♦ Arizona
- ♦ California
- ♦ Colorado
- ♦ Connecticut
- ♦ Delaware
- ♦ Florida
- ♦ Georgia

### SECOND MYSTERY For the Supreme Court

- ♦ Hawaii
- ♦ Idaho
- ♦ Illinois
- ♦ Indiana
- ♦ Iowa
- ♦ Kansas
- ♦ Kentucky
- ♦ Louisiana
- ♦ Maine
- ♦ Maryland

### THIRD MYSTERY For the Senate and the House of Representatives

- ♦ Massachusetts
- ♦ Michigan
- ♦ Minnesota
- ♦ Mississippi
- ♦ Missouri
- ♦ Montana
- ♦ Nebraska
- ♦ Nevada
- ♦ New Hampshire
- ♦ New Jersey

### FOURTH MYSTERY For the office of the Governors

- ♦ New Mexico
- ♦ New York
- ♦ North Carolina
- ♦ North Dakota
- ♦ Ohio
- ♦ Oklahoma
- ♦ Oregon
- ♦ Pennsylvania
- ♦ Rhode Island
- ♦ South Carolina

### FOURTH MYSTERY For all County and Municipal Offices

- ♦ South Dakota
- ♦ Tennessee
- ♦ Texas
- ♦ Utah
- ♦ Vermont
- ♦ Virginia
- ♦ Washington
- ♦ West Virginia
- ♦ Wisconsin
- ♦ Wyoming

After Each Mystery - **For the Conversion of our Country: Glory Be & Fatima Prayer**

Conclusion: **Hail Holy Queen**



## Pray Without Ceasing ... for our Election and for our Country

***"Only with prayer—prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls—will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."***

~ U.S. Catholic Bishops, USCCB Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

† † †

(Composed by *Father John Anthony Hardon, S.J.*)

Lord Jesus Christ, You told us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God. Enlighten the minds of our people in America. May we choose a President of the United States, and other government officials, according to Your Divine Will. Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of marital relations, the sanctity of the family, and the sanctity of the aging. Grant us the wisdom to give You, what belongs to You, our God. If we do this, as a nation, we are confident You will give us an abundance of Your blessings through our elected leaders. Amen.

† † †

(Composed by *His Excellency Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano*)

Almighty and Eternal God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords: graciously turn your gaze to us who invoke You with confidence. Bless us, citizens of the United States of America; grant peace and prosperity to our Nation; illuminate those who govern us so that they may commit themselves to the common good, in respect for Your holy Law. Protect those who, defending the inviolable principles of the Natural Law and Your Commandments, must face the repeated assaults of the Enemy of the human race. Keep in the hearts of Your children courage for the truth, love for virtue and perseverance in the midst of trials. Make our families grow in the example that Our Lord has given us, together with His Most Holy Mother and Saint Joseph in the home of Nazareth; give to our fathers and mothers the gift of Strength, to educate wisely the children with which you have blessed them. Give courage to those who, in spiritual combat, fight the good fight as soldiers of Christ against the furious forces of the children of darkness. Keep each one of us, Oh Lord, in your Most Sacred Heart, and above all He whom Your Providence has placed at the head of our Nation. Bless the President of the United States of America, so that aware of his responsibility and his duties, he may be a knight of justice, a defender of the oppressed, a firm bulwark against Your enemies, and a proud supporter of the children of light. Place the United States of America and the whole world under the mantle of the Queen of Victories, our Unconquered Leader in battle, the Immaculate Conception. It is thanks to her, and through your Mercy, that the hymn of praise rises to you, O Lord, from the children whom you have redeemed in the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

† † †

(Reprinted with permission from *Men of the Sacred Hearts*)

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Amen.

† † †

***"Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote.  
Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong.  
Right is right, even if nobody is right."***

~ Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

† † †

***"The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being,  
but especially the weakest and most defenseless.  
If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace,  
then defend life."***

~ St. John Paul II