



DIOCESE OF PUEBLO
C O L O R A D O

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 1, 2018

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.

Please allow me to remind you I have asked you to celebrate one Mass per month for the intentions of the victims of clergy child abuse, and in reparation for the crimes of the perpetrators. I pray that you be faithful to this priority as we work towards this reform in our Church and for the healing of victims.

The following attachments are provided to assist you in sharing this effort with your parishioners.

- Letter from me to parishioners to be used as a pulpit announcement on Nov. 3rd and 4th.
- 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 in Christ,



Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg, D.D.
Bishop of Pueblo