



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
Office of the Bishop

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MEMO

DATE: October 31, 2018
TO: All Clergy Serving the Diocese
FROM: The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain⁺ *PJS*
RE: Prayer & Fasting in Preparation for USCCB Meeting

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has asked that we bishops join in seven days of intensified prayer beginning Monday, November 5 and continuing through Sunday, November 11. The prayer is to be accompanied by some form of fasting or personal sacrifice. This call to prayer is made in anticipation of the semi-annual meeting of Bishops scheduled to begin on Monday, November 12. During this upcoming meeting we will be called to make critical decisions regarding the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse of minors and the vulnerable.

This period offers us the opportunity to pray “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, and for the strength of bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm.”

Clergy and all the faithful are invited to join in this penitential time of prayer both personally and through Prayers of the Faithful offered during Masses.

His Eminence also encourages you to pray for bishops as we gather during our general assembly, that we will follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we may better respond to the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse of minors and the vulnerable in the Church, including establishing ways in which bishops might be held to account for mishandling or covering-up such abuse.

May Mary, mother of life and of the Church, intercede for us all and for the Church her Son instituted.