President's Text

Message to the Holy Father

General Meeting

November 2026

Most Holy Father:

Gathering in Plenary Assembly in the Premier See of Baltimore, we, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, prayerfully turn our thoughts to Your Holiness. We thank God for your recovery from your recent surgery and pray for your continued strength, good health, and the consolation of knowing that you remain close in the prayers and affection of the American people.

Holy Father, we join your call for peace in our world and a special defense of the most vulnerable in areas of turmoil. Together, we ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, that we might build a more just and fraternal world. May she intercede for all in need and guide us in our efforts to bring about lasting peace in all areas of the world torn by conflict and strife.

We are grateful for your encyclical letter *Magnifica Humanitas* and your renewed call to safeguard human dignity in an age of profound technological change. In response to this call, our episcopal conference established a task force to examine the ethical, pastoral, and societal implications of artificial intelligence, building upon the longstanding work of the Conference in this area. Through this effort, we seek to discern the challenges and opportunities these developments present for the Church and society, and to advance the protection of human life and the dignity of every person.

Last year, at this gathering, we issued a Special Pastoral Message on Immigration. Please be assured that we continue to advocate for the dignity and rights of immigrants and to pray for everyone experiencing fear, uncertainty, and separation from their loved ones. Inspired by the example of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, whose witness of faith and tireless service to immigrants continues to guide the Church, we renew our commitment to welcoming the stranger and accompanying those most in need.

In closing, we thank you for your recent gathering marking ten years since the promulgation of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*. We are grateful for your continued witness to the beauty and vocation of marriage and family life, and for your reminder that promoting the family is an "urgent task" for the Church and society. We echo your affirmation that spousal love embraces the "whole person" of both husband and wife, "who are equal in dignity," and your reminder that children are "the supreme gift of marriage." May your teaching continue to strengthen married couples and families in their vocation to reflect God's love in the world.

Your Holiness, we pray for you and humbly ask you to bless our assembly and the work that lies before it.