

Message to the Holy Father

Plenary Assembly

November 2024

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 join you in prayer for peace in our world. May the risen Lord protect all in harm's way and help us to bring about a lasting peace in Israel, Palestine, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan, and all areas of the world torn by conflict and strife. Together, we ask that the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ pour out its love upon all in need and "inspire us to journey together towards a just, solidary, and fraternal world."

Holy Father, we thank you for the journey we have made together in recent years through the Synod. The process of the Synod underscored the need for us to remain a Church on mission. We welcome the call of synod delegates to increase opportunities for lay participation in various ministries and leadership roles in our local churches. The Synod's Final Report resonates with our country's rich history of promoting co-responsibility among all of the Christian faithful in our dioceses and parishes and in structures that enhance pastoral discernment and consultation. We look forward to implementing the lessons of the synod as we continue to walk together to build a culture of synodality that is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedient to Christ's plan for His Church.

We thank you for your consistent reminder on the need to address the climate crisis and experience "ecological conversion." As we prepare to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the promulgation of *Laudato Si'*, we commit to continuing and building upon the good work that the Church in the United States has done to change structures and change hearts to nurture and heal our "suffering planet."

Nowhere in the United States has the need for personal and cultural transformation amidst our ecological crises been more evident than in the suffering wrought by natural disasters. Like other parts of the world, devastating hurricanes and other events have leveled entire communities, with people in poverty suffering the greatest losses. We humbly ask for your prayers for all communities that have suffered the catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis.

Holy Father, we ask for your prayers as we continue to deepen our lived faith in and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress in July this year was a profound moment for the whole Church in the United States. Along with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimages, as many as 100,000 Catholics united in prayer and love for the Lord. We renew the expression of our deep gratitude to you for sending a special Envoy to the Congress. We have now entered the "Year of Mission," a time for Catholics to share the Eucharistic Lord with our

brothers and sisters. For our nation it is a time of abundant joy. Once again, we thank you for your special blessing on the efforts of this revival of love for the Holy Eucharist.

As you know, Holy Father, the United States has recently held its presidential election. We ask that you also pray for the people of the United States during this time of transition. We pray that the transfer of power will be peaceful, and that the incoming administration will promote the life and dignity of all people.

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