

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

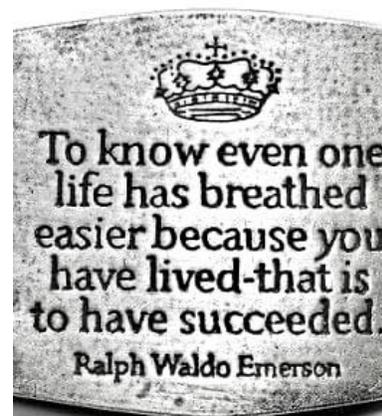


Tonight, I call upon you to join me in prayer and thank God for His divine, providential, and loving care in spite of our failings to Him and one another. We praise and worship His Holy Name, we ask forgiveness from Him and one another, and we beseech our Lord to give us renewed hope, healing, strength, peace, and mercy to...

- families who suffered loss of life and property from Hurricane Ida and who need shelter, food, water, and safe living conditions,
- the vulnerable who are unable to escape Afghanistan and other dangerous places, who fear for their safety and their lives, and who wish to be reunited with their families,
- the victims of the fires in Greece and in our western U.S. and from other natural disasters,



- the innocent and helpless victims of sex trafficking who are enslaved and abused, and in spite of being in our midst, unseen by the majority and feeling frightened, lost, alone, and hopeless,
- Christians being tortured and persecuted for following Christ Jesus, and those being asked to renounce their faith and accept non-Christian beliefs and lifestyles,
- victims of violence, abuse, and injustice from their peers, from totalitarian regimes, and oppressive civil leaders,
- those who are undergoing physical suffering and illness, including Covid, cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's, and dementia,
- those suffering from disability, hunger, and poverty, and those bereaved from the death of their loved ones,
- those who suffer from grief, hatred, frustration, heartbreak, guilt, humiliation, anxiety, loneliness, and self-pity,
- those who are unable to live in a safe and secure home or neighborhood,
- those with broken and dysfunctional families and no adult caregivers for much of the time, and those who are being abused by their parents and caregivers,
- those who do not have enough to eat, drink, or clothe themselves,
- those who are imprisoned and feel abandoned by their families and society and who are being mistreated by their guards,



- our schools, teachers, and counselors seeking to calm, inspire, and fortify the hearts and minds of our students, and those who have been deprived of socialization for the past year during the pandemic,
- the elderly, the forgotten, the forsaken, and those contemplating ending their lives or seeking to erase their pain through their addictions to drugs, alcohol, and lethal substances or behaviors,
- your servant Christian, who losing joy in this life and forgetting he is a son of God, abandoned hope for a brighter tomorrow and sought to ease his pain and suffering with an overdose of drugs that has caused his brain to cease functioning, leading doctors to approach his family and ask them to let go and let God receive his soul,
- for Christian's parents who are traveling across our country tonight to seek to be with him in his final moments if it is not too late,
- for the caregivers – doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who will not give up on Christian and his family, albeit the end is clearly inevitable,
- for Christian's Priests from the western U.S. and their brother Priest in Atlanta who will assist them: by ministering to him the Holy Sacraments of God in what remains of his earthly life and pray for his



eternal repose when he departs this life for the next. He asks God to guide his efforts to support and remind Christian and his family that God is with them in spite of their disappointment and sorrow for their precious son and child of God,

- and for those reading and offering this prayer beseeching God's mercy, peace, and forgiveness for all of our voluntary and involuntary sins,
- "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner, and save all those in need. Show us Your path. Take us into Your arms and bless us as You embraced children when You visited us on earth. Hear our prayers each day, and ever remind us that You are always with us... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

We ask you, Master, be our helper and defender. Rescue those of our number in distress; raise up the fallen; assist the needy; heal the sick; turn back those of your people who stray; feed the hungry; release our captives; revive the weak; encourage those who lose heart. Let all the nations realize that you are the only God, that Jesus Christ is your Child, and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

—1 Clement (c. 96)

