



Office of the Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

October 31, 2018

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Lubbock:

The U.S. bishops are joining together in a commitment of prayer and reparation leading up to the bishops' general assembly, November 12 – 14, where we will make critical decisions in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

With my brother bishops across the nation, from Monday, November 5, through Sunday, November 11, I will dedicate myself to seven days of intensified prayer and fasting.

The intentions for this period of prayer and sacrifice on my part are:

- REPARATION of harm done to those wounded by the acts of abuse and any elements of cover-up of that abuse on the part of Church officials;
- JUSTICE exercised on behalf of those abused and toward those guilty of acts of abuse;
- COMPASSION especially for victims and survivors of abuse and the suffering they continue to experience; also for compassion for perpetrators in the midst of their broken lives, many of whom have themselves been abused;
- MERCY as Jesus himself would exercise, condemning the sin but not the sinner.

If you feel called to do so, you are welcome to join me in praying for these intentions. I would also be grateful for any prayers for me and my brother bishops during our general assembly, that we will have the strength to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading our sheep from all harm, and that we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in responding to the tragedy of clergy sexual abuse in the Church. Please be assured of my prayers for you, as well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock

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