



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 7, 2021

Dear Fathers, Parish Director, and Parish Life Coordinators,

May God bless us all today as we realize the need for His intervention in our divided United States. I can't believe any of us were not shocked as we watched the disturbing events unfold at the United States Capitol yesterday. I share with you the statement by Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in response to yesterday's events:

"I join people of good will in condemning the violence today at the United States Capitol. This is not who we are as Americans. I am praying for members of Congress and Capitol staff and for the police and all those working to restore order and public safety.

"The peaceful transition of power is one of the hallmarks of this great nation. In this troubling moment, we must recommit ourselves to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God. I entrust all of us to the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she guide us in the ways of peace and obtain for us wisdom and the grace of a true patriotism and love of country."

Today and in the days to come, let us join in prayer for our Country. Let us accept our Lord's invitation to go to prayer asking our Father to give us the grace and strength to help bring forth "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." I also invite all to prayerfully recite and reflect on our Pledge of Allegiance as we pray for "One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I also offer the following "Prayer for our Nation":

*Almighty God, our Rock and our Salvation, we beg You
to pour out your Holy Spirit upon our fractured nation.
Heal the divisions that separate us and remove all obstacles to authentic unity.
May you guide this great country of ours and lead our citizens
to embrace one another as neighbors and fellow countrymen and women,
created in your own image and likeness.
Give us a fresh opportunity for renewal and true solidarity
for the common good of our homeland.
May we return to our true identity as a people of faith and charity,
Help us to always remain One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with
Liberty and Justice for All. AMEN*

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May God bless us all and our Nation.

Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior