

LITANY 2: A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, giver of all things, with gladness we give thanks for all your goodness. We bless you for the love with which you created us and by which you sustain us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and grace. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the encouraging example of the fruits of faith your Spirit produces in the lives of believers; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness with lives that are wholly given to your service:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Save and defend your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers filled with your Spirit, and strengthen it through the Word and the holy sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in all good works, and establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in all the world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Give your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in your Church that, by their faithful service, faith may abound and your kingdom increase:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Send the light of your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to labor in the gospel both at home and in distant lands:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: In your mercy strengthen the younger churches and support them in times of trial. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the gospel refresh and renew the witness of your people everywhere:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

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M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead peaceable lives of integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially to President _____ (name), Governor _____ (name), the Mayor of Novi, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and help them serve all citizens according to your holy will:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Sanctify our homes with your presence and joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their baptisms, and enable their parents to train them in lives of faith and devotion. By the spirit of affection and service, unite the members of all families, that they may show your praise in our land and in all the world:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Let your blessing rest on the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who lay their hands to any useful task:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom:

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever:

C: Amen.