**Diocese of Scranton**

**Sample Intercessions for Atonement & Healing**

*From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions*

*and the Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life*

*It is recommended to include at least one of these intercessions in the Universal Prayer each weekend.*

**TO BE USED IN AUGUST 2019**

That by marking the darkest year in its history, the Diocese of Scranton may continue to hear the cries of those victimized by clergy and strive to eradicate all forms of abuse in the Church, we pray to the Lord.

That this past year of responding to the sexual abuse crisis in the Diocese of Scranton may bring about healing for the victims and renewal in our Church, we pray to the Lord.

That efforts made by the Diocese of Scranton towards atonement and healing during this past year may help survivors of abuse find the peace and consolation that they need, we pray to the Lord.

For Catholics who have left the Church during this past year because of the abuse crisis, that they may remain rooted in Christ and advocate for justice for the survivors of abuse, we pray to the Lord.

**GENERAL**

For Pope Francis, our Bishop, Joseph, and all bishops, that they may heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit and work to promote justice for all victims of sexual abuse, we pray to the Lord.

For the pope and for the college of bishops around the world, that during this abuse crisis they may lead the Church to a deeper faith in God and stronger love of others, we pray to the Lord.

That Church leaders and the faithful will promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse; that those who commit sexual abuse and abuse their power will be held accountable; and that we will commit to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, we pray to the Lord.

That the Church may be a safe refuge for all in need, especially those who suffer physical, mental, and sexual abuse, we pray to the Lord.

That all members of the Church may commit themselves to protect children and the most vulnerable in our society, we pray to the Lord.

That those who have been robbed of innocence and joy by the abuse of others, may find the love of the Good Shepherd in all who care for them, we pray to the Lord.

For the victims of abuse, that may they find healing, support, and peace within the Catholic community, we pray to the Lord.

That victims of abuse in the Church may have the courage to come forward to share their stories, and by doing so, help prevent future instances of abuse, we pray to the Lord.

For children abused or neglected, and parents in difficulty or danger, that this Christian community may offer gifts of care, advocacy, intervention and support, we pray to the Lord.

For all children who are victims of the evils that come from the human heart: May they find healing for their pain and hope for their future through the love that Christ commands, we pray to the Lord.

That those terrorized by sexual abuse may find the courage to come forward to authorities and find the peace and consolation they need, we pray to the Lord.

For the victims of sexual abuse and their families, that they may know the healing love of all the members of the Body of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

For the families of abuse victims, that their compassionate concern may affect healing and that their strong advocacy may bring about change within the Church and society, we pray to the Lord.

For all victims who have died from suicide as a result of their overwhelming anxiety caused by abuse, may they find solace in the embrace of their loving God, we pray to the Lord.

For all those in parishes and dioceses who are responsible for safe environment training programs which promote the protection of children, that their efforts may help prevent abuse, we pray to the Lord.

For parents, teachers, catechists, youth ministers, and coaches, that they may be vigilant to the signs of trauma or abuse in all under their care, we pray to the Lord.

For psychologists and others in the medical profession who work with victims of abuse, that their efforts may bring healing and hope, we pray to the Lord.

That the voices of the laity may be effective in influencing change in the governance of the Church, especially in the prevention of abuse, we pray to the Lord.

For those who might abandon their faith due to scandal, may we continue to love them and welcome them home, we pray to the Lord.