

A LITANY FOR HEALING, PROTECTING, PREPARING AND WELCOMING A SEX OFFENDER INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST

LET US PRAY:

We thank you, God the Creator of Life, for entrusting us with our sexuality and all that it represents. Through it we experience our own deep creativity, vitality, joy, strength and partnership with those who share our commitments and life. Through the gift of sexual expression new life comes into being and we thank you for the extraordinary gift of children.

We must also acknowledge that we have not always treated the gift of sexuality with respect. We have not always honored our own bodies and those of others. Sometimes we have been selfish, thinking only of ourselves and our pleasure. At this time we admit our sexual sins, both of commission and omission, and we ask that you extend your mercy to us so that we can be fully reconciled with you.

(Please add "LORD HAVE MERCY" after each statement is read:

- ❖ For those who have misused the gift of sexuality...
- ❖ For those who have used sexuality as a weapon to exploit others and manipulate the weak...
- ❖ For those who have fallen to lust and exhibitionism...
- ❖ For those who exploit others through sexual fantasy...
- ❖ For those who have committed sexual crimes and offenses, whether they have been found out or remain in secret...
- ❖ For all who create, publish and market pornography and for those who have been exposed to it...
- ❖ For those who provide professional care and counsel to sex offenders...
- ❖ For all who are in prison today for sexual crimes...
- ❖ For those who long for rewarding, committed relationships in which to experience their sexuality and cannot find them...
- ❖ For those who are bruised, bewildered or in despair from their past relationships...

- ❖ For those who degraded their own bodies by thoughtlessly sharing the gift of sexuality inappropriately...
- ❖ For those families that have fallen apart...
- ❖ For all who have been wounded and degraded by infidelity...
- ❖ For the children who are born unwanted and have no caring home...
- ❖ For the children irresponsibly conceived and aborted...
- ❖ For all who open their hearts and their homes to children...
- ❖ For those who long for children and cannot have them...
- ❖ For all survivors of sexual abuse, especially those who were children...
- ❖ For all who live in fear of sexual offenders and who retaliate, disdain or exhibit prejudice against them.
- ❖ For congregations caring and ministering to sexual offenders...
- ❖ For our pastors, priests and other spiritual advisors who lead both the offenders and victims of sexual abuse...
- ❖ For all who work for healing, justice, restoration, forgiveness and regeneration for the offenders and victims of sexual abuse...
- ❖ For us here today as we strive to love those you bring to us and also each other...

LET US PRAY:

God,

I rejoice in all the ways you embrace hurting people.

When I wrestle with the unknowable, I know you stand with me.

When I struggle with the unspeakable, you hear me.

When my fears threaten to overwhelm me, you strengthen me.

When the phantom pain of lost possibilities and stolen hopes strikes the deepest part of me, you are my comfort.

When my heart soars with the joys of healing, you dance beside me.

When I discover new beginnings and new truths,
you gather me in your arms to complete the circle.

And for this faithfulness, which I still don't understand,

and for this steadfastness, which breaks though
my own clouds of doubt,
and for this grace, which is crowned by love,
I give you thanks. Amen
(Prayer from “Survivor Prayers” by Catherine Foote)