



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 5, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Bishops of the United States will be meeting for our regular Fall General Assembly next week in Baltimore, Maryland. (Nov. 12-15, 2018). As you may know, this year's meeting holds special importance, as very significant decisions in regard to the current scandals of clergy sexual abuse and the mishandling of many of these cases by Bishops will be made.

As a way for us to spiritually prepare ourselves, my brother Bishops and I are dedicating ourselves to these next seven days (Monday, November 5, through Sunday, November 11) as a week of intensified prayer and fasting. The special intentions for which we will be praying are:

- For the healing and support of all victims of clergy sexual abuse.
- For the conversion and just punishment of the perpetrators and concealers of sexual abuse.
- For God's grace for the Bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their people from all harm.

If you so desire, I would welcome you to join me in praying for these intentions. I would also be most grateful for your prayers for me and my brother Bishops during next week's meetings, so that we may follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in responding to this scandal of clergy sexual abuse, and the mishandling of situations by some Bishops, in the Church.

May Jesus the Good Shepherd remain our comfort and be the model for all of us charged with the responsibility of leadership within our beloved Church.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo