



# Bridgeside Bulletin



**An Invitation:** Pope Francis has invited all the faithful, of all the world, to pray a Holy Rosary daily during the entire Marian month October.

During these last years and months, we in the Church have lived through difficult situations, among these abuses of sex, power and conscience on the part of clerics, consecrated persons and lay people. Added to these are internal divisions in the Church. Certainly these are abetted by the evil spirit : "the mortal enemy of our human nature." We pray that we will remain faithful, that our Church remain strong as a beckon of light, that we remain faithful to the Gospels and that we will always speak for those who have no voice.

You are invited by Pope Francis to add the two following prayers at the end of the Rosary.

**We Fly to Thy Protection:**

We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin

**Prayer of St Michael the Archangel:**

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

***At synod for young people, Sydney archbishop apologizes to young people for church failures***

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has used his speech at the Synod of Bishops to formally apologise to young people for all the ways the Church and its members have harmed them or let them down. Source: CNS

In the presence of Pope Francis, he apologised "for the shameful deeds of some priests, religious and laypeople, perpetrated upon you or other young people just like you, and the terrible damage that has done."

He apologised "for the failure of too many bishops and others to respond appropriately when abuse was identified, and to do all in their power to keep you safe; and for the damage thus done to the Church's credibility and to your trust."

In addition to apologising for the Church's failures with clerical sexual abuse, the archbishop also apologised for the ways in which the church had failed to "introduce you to the person of Jesus Christ, his saving word and his plan for your life".

"And for the times when you were searching for your sexual, ethnic or spiritual identity and needed a moral compass, but found Church people unsympathetic or ambiguous: I apologise," he said.

The Church, Archbishop Fisher said, often "sold you short" by not challenging young people to live up to their baptismal call to holiness, by offering them "unbeautiful or unwelcoming liturgies" and by not sharing with them church traditions such as the sacrament of reconciliation, pilgrimages and eucharistic adoration.

He apologised for "poor preaching, catechesis or spiritual direction" that failed to inspire conversion and for families, dioceses and religious orders that adopted a "contraceptive mentality" that did not even try to give birth to new vocations.

In addition to his apology, Archbishop Fisher pleaded with young people: "Never give up on Jesus because of our failures. Never give up on the church that you can help make more faithful. Never give up on the world that, with Christ and the church's help, you can make a better place."

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