



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org

November 4, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will have its annual fall meeting in Baltimore November 12-14. At that meeting, the bishops will address the abuse scandal that has caused incalculable pain and harm for victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their families, just as it has gripped and wounded the Church.

From November 5 through November 11, we commit ourselves—as your bishops—to prepare for that meeting with intense prayer and fasting. With these actions, we will plead for God's assistance as we move forward, but we will also seek to unite ourselves to the suffering of those who have been harmed. Our intentions will be first for victim-survivors and their families, for nothing is more important for the church than the protection of young people and vulnerable adults. We will also pray for you, our parishioners, knowing that this moment weighs heavily on you and your families. We very much need your prayers as we make decisions in November that will strengthen our efforts to safeguard the people entrusted to our care and hold accountable those who fail to do so.

In these days, I have come to a deeper awareness of how much we depend on each other to sustain the life of the Church and to fulfill what the Lord Jesus wants of us. Only together can we reclaim our deepest identity as God's family and move forward as a community of hope and healing.

With my prayers for you and your loved ones,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Card. Blase J. Cupich*  
Archbishop of Chicago