

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I mentioned at Mass last week, our prayer service on October 3 for the universal Church in this time of trouble and crisis was **one of the most powerful and meaningful experiences of prayer I've had in my whole life**. And I was not the only one who left the church that night feeling deeply touched by our prayer, the music and what was shared. We prayed a *lament* for the current state of affairs and the history that has led us here. The service wasn't intended to give answers or to fix problems: it was a time for crying out to the Lord the pain and ache in our hearts - and to seek and to find some healing in doing so. As I said, it was one of the most moving and power experiences of prayer I've ever had. I want more people to have the opportunity to share this experience so we're going to repeat the same service on Monday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. If you are among so many who aren't sure what to do or where to turn in the midst of this crisis, please join us on October 22 for ***A Time of Prayer for the Abused, for the Church: our Lament***.

CROP WALK! I mentioned in this space some time ago that I hoped to get a group of parishioners to join in the Concord's annual Crop Walk which this year will be held on Sunday, October 21. The walk begins at 2:15 p.m., just across the street on the front steps of First Parish Church in Concord. The walk is 3.5K or just over two miles. Some years ago I often participated in the Crop Walk until my weight prohibited me from doing so. Now that I'm free of that burden I look forward once again to this annual October walk. **I'd love to have other parishioners join me!** If you'd like to walk with me, you can register online at **concordcrop.org/cms/registration** or you can pick up your "walking papers" at either of the two Concord public libraries.

Of course, the Crop Walk is a fundraiser. Funds raised by the Concord area CROP Walk go to Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes; for refugee aid; and for fighting the root causes of hunger through community development programs in 30 underdeveloped countries. In addition, one quarter of these funds raised will provide substantial contributions to nine ***local food pantries!***

Would you like to sponsor my walk? Large jars for this purpose can be found at the front and parking lot entrances to the church. If you write a check, please make it payable to **CWS/CROP**. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming