

Message to the Holy Father

Plenary Assembly

June 2024

Most Holy Father:

Gathering in Plenary Assembly in the See of Louisville, we, the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, prayerfully turn our thoughts to Your Holiness.

We join you in prayer for peace in our world. United in prayer, we call for the defense of the most vulnerable, especially in areas of turmoil. We pray in a special way for all people suffering from hunger and famine caused by war, drought, flooding, and natural disasters.

In this Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we humbly pray for the protection of all in harm's way and that, through the perfect and overflowing love of Jesus, we may have peace in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan, and all areas of the world torn by conflict and strife. As you have rightly said, "war is a defeat." Indeed, we must continue to promote endlessly the principle of human fraternity and tirelessly seek diplomatic solutions for a lasting peace.

Holy Father, we ask for your prayers as we invite the faithful into a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist through the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival. We thank you for the appointment of Cardinal Tagle as Special Envoy to the National Eucharistic Congress, which will take place in Indianapolis next month. He will join tens of thousands of pilgrims at a pivotal time for the Catholic Church in the United States. Each day of the Congress has opportunities for personal transformation and life-giving Catholic community in the form of communal worship and smaller group learning and reflection. Cardinal Tagle's presence and participation will be a sign of grace for all who take part, in person or in prayer. He will join dozens of Catholic leaders in sharing their faith with all those present. Together we pray that this gathering may be a time of abundant grace, renewal, and transformation not only for the participants but also for our world.

We look with joyful anticipation to the upcoming Synod gathering in October and the commencement of the Jubilee in 2025. We expect this Holy Year to be a lively experience of grace and hope, which we will welcome at every cathedral in our dioceses and eparchies. This Holy Year will be a special time to recognize the immense goodness in our world and discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us. May we, and all the faithful, be tangible signs of hope in this Holy Year and onward.

As we gather in Louisville, we ask for your prayers as we fraternally discuss and discern issues such as the crisis of mental health, pastoral ministry to young people, support for our Native and indigenous brothers and sisters, and the bishops' steadfast commitment to empowering the poor to emerge from the cycle of poverty.

Your Holiness, we pray for you and humbly ask you to bless our assembly and the work that lies before it.