UNIVERSAL PRAYERS
IN RESPONSE TO THE SEXUAL ABUSE CRISIS

Celebrant: Confident that God hears and answers our petitions, let us turn our thoughts and prayers to the serious needs we have in this moment of our Church with openness to the Holy Spirit:

Minister: The response is: Hear our prayer.

1. For the victims of sexual abuse and their families, that they may know the healing love of us and all the members of the Body of Christ; Lord, in your mercy:
2. For all members of the Body of Christ, that their ears may be opened to hear what they may not want to hear and to speak words of compassion and mercy to ones affected by any abuse; Lord, in your mercy:
3. For all members of the Body of Christ, that their lips may be opened to speak of any injustice done to anyone in the Church or society by reporting to the appropriate authorities; Lord, in your mercy:
4. For those guilty of abusing children or obstructing justice, that they make reparation for their crimes and seek God’s unbounded mercy; Lord, in your mercy:
5. For all faithful ministers in the Church who are affected by the stain of sin and crimes of their brothers, that their hearts not be hardened and that they will exude Jesus’ mercy, hope and love; Lord, in your mercy:
6. For all clergy and laity who currently serve in the Church that they will be vigilant in protecting the young and vulnerable and be responsive to the universal call to holiness in the Church; Lord, in your mercy:
For Bishop McElroy and Bishop Dolan, that the Holy Spirit will guide them in their vigilance in addressing the sexual abuse crisis for the sake of the mission entrusted to them in the Diocese of San Diego;
Lord, in your mercy:

For the American bishops as they gather at their November General Assembly, that they not miss the urgency and opportunity to address this crisis of leadership by some of their brothers; and, to be vigilant in making decisions to ensure the protection of the young and vulnerable at all costs;
Lord, in your mercy:

For Pope Francis, that he recognize the urgency of this crisis and continue to embrace those on the margins, including those who experience sexual abuse with mercy and the unconditional love of God; and to take the steps in leading the bishops to make the necessary responses to this crisis and begin to heal the Body of Christ;
Lord, in your mercy:

Celebrant:  O God,

together we stand in unjust pain and crime some in leadership have brought upon innocent and vulnerable members of the Church.
Yet it is not only our pain that brings us together, we stand as a people of faith.
And, it is this faith that makes us united in our vigilance for justice and mercy in our local Church and society.
And, let your Holy Spirit guide us in our quest for the Joy of the Gospel.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

All:  Amen.