



PENITENTIAL VIGIL PRESIDED OVER BY POPE FRANCIS

October 1, 2024
St. Peter's Basilica, 18:00 CET

Requests for forgiveness

Card. Oswald GRACIAS, Archbishop of Bombay (India)

I ask forgiveness to God the Father, feeling shame for the sin of lack of courage, of the courage necessary to seek peace among peoples and nations, in recognition of the infinite dignity of every human life in all its phases, from the nascent state to old age, Especially the children, the sick, the poor, of the right to have a job, land, home, family, community in which to live free, of the value that is the landscape and culture of every area of the planet. To make peace it takes courage: to say yes to the encounter and no to the clash; yes to the respect of agreements and no to provocations; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. In the name of all the faithful I ask forgiveness to those who are being born today and will be born after us, to the generations of the future that lend us this world and that have the right to live in it, one day, in harmony and peace. Even more serious is our sin, if to justify war and discrimination, we invoke the name of God. Forgive us Lord.

Card. Michael CZERNY, S.I., Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development

I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for what we too, the faithful, have done to transform creation from garden to desert, manipulating it at our own pleasure; and how much we did not do to prevent it. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for when we have not recognized the right and dignity of every human person, Discriminating and exploiting it - I am thinking in particular of the indigenous peoples - and for when we were accomplices in systems that favoured slavery and colonialism. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for when we took and take part in the globalisation of indifference in front of the tragedies that transform for many migrants the sea routes and borders between nations from routes of hope to routes of death. The value of the person is always higher than that of the border. At this moment I hear the voice of God asking us all: «Where is your brother; where is your sister?». Forgive us, Lord.

Card. Seán Patrick O'MALLEY, O.F.M. Cap., Emeritus Metropolitan Archbishop of Boston (United States of America)

I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for all the times that we the faithful have been accomplices or have directly committed abuses of conscience, abuse of power, and sexual abuse. How much shame and pain I feel when considering especially the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable people, abuses that have stolen innocence and profaned the sacredness of those who are weak and helpless. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for all the times we have used the condition of ordained ministry and consecrated life to commit this terrible sin, feeling safe and protected while we were profiting diabolically from the little ones and the poor. Forgive us, Lord.

Card. Kevin Joseph FARRELL, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

I ask forgiveness on behalf of all in the Church, especially us men, feeling shame for all the times that we have not recognized and defended the dignity of women, for when we made them mute and



succubi, and not infrequently exploited, especially in the condition of consecrated life. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for all the times we have judged and condemned before taking care of the frailties and wounds of the family. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for all the times that we have stolen hope and love to the younger generations, when we did not understand the delicacy of the steps of growth, the pain of the formation of identity, and we are not willing to sacrifice ourselves for their right to express talents and professionalism by finding a decent job and receiving a fair salary. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for all the times we have preferred to take revenge instead of committing ourselves to the pursuit of justice, abandoning those who make mistakes in prisons and resorting to the use of the death penalty. Forgive us, Lord.

Card. Víctor Manuel Fernández, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith

I ask forgiveness feeling shame for all the times that in the Church, especially us pastors who are entrusted with the task of confirming our brothers and sisters in the faith, have not been able to guard and propose the Gospel as a living source of eternal newness, "indoctrinating it" and risking reducing it to a pile of dead stones to be thrown at others. I beg forgiveness, feeling shame for all the times we have given doctrinal justification to inhuman treatment. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for when we have not been credible witnesses of the fact that the truth is free, for when we have obstructed the various legitimate inculturations of the truth of Jesus Christ, who always travels the paths of history and life to be found by those who want to follow him with fidelity and joy. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for the actions and omissions that have prevented and still make difficult the recomposition in unity of the Christian faith, and the authentic fraternity of all mankind. Forgive us, Lord.

Card. Cristóbal LÓPEZ ROMERO, S.D.B., Archbishop of Rabat (Morocco)

I ask forgiveness on behalf of all in the Church, feeling shame for when we turned our head to the other side in front of the sacrament of the poor, preferring to adorn ourselves and the altar with guilty valuables that steal bread from the hungry. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for the inertia that keeps us from accepting the call to be a poor Church of the poor and that makes us yield to the seduction of power and the flattery of the first places and titles of vainglory. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame, for when we give in to the temptation of hiding ourselves in the centre, protected within our ecclesial spaces sick with self-referentiality, resisting to go out, neglecting the mission in the geographical and existential peripheries. Forgive us, Lord.

Card. Christoph SCHÖNBORN, O.P., Archbishop of Wien (Austria)

I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for the obstacles that we place in the building of a truly synodal, symphonic Church, aware of being holy people of God who walk together recognizing the common baptismal dignity. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for all the times that we have not heard the Holy Spirit, preferring to listen to ourselves, defending opinions and ideologies that hurt the communion in Christ of all, expected at the end of time from the Father. I ask forgiveness, feeling shame for when we have transformed authority into power, suffocating plurality, not listening to people, making it difficult for many brothers and sisters to participate in the mission of the Church, forgetting that we are all called in history, For faith in Christ, to become living stones of the one temple of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord.