



Letter from
the Cardinal December 3, 2002

CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE
2101 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

December 3, 2002



Dear Friends in Christ:

I write to ask you to join with me in a special period of prayer from the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2002, until the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1, 2003. The special intention of this time of prayer will be for healing, forgiveness and reconciliation in the context of the suffering caused to all victim-survivors and their families through sexual abuse by clergy and the consequent pain caused to the members of the entire Church in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The program which I propose for this period of time is a simple one. As you know, the Holy Father has recently sent to the Church an Apostolic Letter titled *On the Most Holy Rosary* and has declared the year of October 2002 to October 2003 as a year of the Rosary. In light of this, I would ask that our prayer for healing, forgiveness and reconciliation center on this devotion.

To open this observance, I shall celebrate Mass and pray the Rosary at 12:10 p.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Mission Church, 1545 Tremont Street, Roxbury, on December 12, 2002. All are invited to that Mass. I would ask that all the faithful pray the Rosary each day during the period of December 12, 2002 to January 1, 2003 in their own homes or in their churches, to beg God, through Our Lady's intercession, for these gifts of grace we so need. I encourage meditation upon the five new mysteries, which the Holy Father has introduced into the Rosary, the luminous mysteries of the life of Our Savior.

The present program of prayer which I am inviting all to join in will be followed in the upcoming months by other liturgical and devotional events directed to asking God for these same gifts of healing, forgiveness and reconciliation for our Archdiocese and the world. This is a simple beginning of what must be an ongoing program of prayer.

I am grateful for your cooperation and I am sure of your own desire to share in this time of prayer.

Asking God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston

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