

Prayer of Entrustment of the Archdiocese to Our Lady

LEADER:

In the year of 2000 we celebrated the great jubilee birth of Christ
We rejoice that the Virgin Mary has offered us Jesus anew
the blessed fruit of her womb most pure,
the Word made flesh, the world's redeemer.
We now hear more clearly his words on the cross
entrusting the apostle John and all of us to Mary
making her the mother and help of all Christians.

ALL:

*Mary, our Mother and our Help,
through you, there shines the fullness of grace;
you are the splendor which does not dim the light of Christ,
for you exist in Him and through Him.*

*Christ our saviour entrusted the apostle John to you,
and, with him, the family of the Church and all people.*

*Here, then, are your children, gathered before you
at the dawn of the new millennium.*

*The Church today seeks refuge in your motherly help
and trustingly begs your intercession
as we face the challenges which lie hidden in the future.*

LEADER:

Now we entrust to you Immaculate Heart of Mary the future that awaits us.
Today's America is full of contradictions.
Humanity has instruments of unprecedented power:
we can turn our country into a garden,
or reduce it to a pile of rubble.
Humanity has the astounding capacity
to intervene in the very well-springs of life:
we can use this power with respect for every human being
or succumb to the pride of a science without limits.
As never before in the past,
We stand at a crossroads.

ALL:

*Therefore, O Mother, like the apostle John,
we wish to take you into our home,
that we may learn from you to become like your Son.
We stand before you to entrust to your maternal care our beloved
Archdiocese and all those who reside here.*

*Plead for us with Jesus your dear Son
that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of truth which is the fountain of life.
May the Spirit open our hearts to justice and love,
and guide the people of this archdiocese to mutual understanding
and a firm desire for peace and reconciliation.*

LEADER:

The Virgin Mary knows the sufferings
and hopes of the Church and the world:
she comes to the aid of all her children
in the daily trials which life brings to each one,
interceding on their behalf that
the darkness will not prevail over the light.

ALL:

*IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY we entrust to you
all people, beginning with the weakest:
the babies yet unborn,
and those born into poverty and suffering,
the young in search of meaning,
the unemployed,
and those suffering hunger and disease.
We entrust to you all troubled families,
the elderly with no one to help them,
and all who are alone and without hope.
To you, Dawn of Salvation, we commit
our journey through the new millennium
and the new century of our history in AMERICA
so that, with your help, all people may know Christ,
the light of the world, and its only saviour,
who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever AMEN.*

LEADER: IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

All: pray for us.

