

VOTE WITH MERCY

Daily Prayers leading up to Election Day 2020

In the lead-up to the election, we as members of the Mercy family approach our voting by taking the time to educate ourselves, engage in conversations and pray.

Each day, we ask you to bring into your heart and spirit, in addition to those who are casting the votes and running for office, those who are most impacted by the different issues that are part of our Mercy's Critical Concerns: Anti-Racism, Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence and Women as well as the act of voting in this year. We acknowledge the intersection of many of these issues and share our gratitude for how your prayer life over these weeks will help the collective spirit of the nation.

Oct 18	As we enter into what is likely to be an extended election season, pray for civil discourse among candidates and the electorate.
Oct 19	Be attentive to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor as you study candidates' positions.
Oct 20	Pray that elected leaders will embrace diplomacy rather than military action to resolve conflict. The State Department budget (\$41 billion) is less than six percent of the Department of Defense budget (\$712 billion).
Oct 21	Pray that white Americans lay aside their white privilege and take action to recognize and reject the systemic racism that continues to plague the United States four hundred years after the first enslaved Africans were brought to what is now the U.S.
Oct 22	Pray for women who must consider the demands of caregiving when making plans to cast their ballots.
Oct 23	Pray for voters who have to take into consideration wildfires, extreme storms, pollution alerts and other impacts of climate change and the extraction of fossil fuels as they make plans to cast their ballots.
Oct 24	Pray for the children and parents, separated by U.S. immigration policy, who have not yet been reunited.
Oct 25	Pray for the health and safety of people working at the polls during early voting and on Election Day.
Oct 26	Pray for a change of heart so that U.S. citizens come to recognize immigrants as sisters and brothers eager to use their gifts in service to their communities.

Oct 27	Easy access to firearms including military-grade weapons has led to the United States having the highest level of gun violence in the industrialized world. Pray that elected leaders will frame gun violence as a public health issue and enact policies that address root causes of this ongoing crisis in the U.S.
Oct 28	The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted disparities in access to health care, housing, employment and nutritious food which have made communities of color more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19. Pray that elected officials will prioritize these areas and formulate concrete plans to overcome these historic gaps.
Oct 29	Pray for all the young women who are finding their voice this election season and voting for the first time.
Oct 30	Pray for voters who are still discerning how they will vote, that they will consider how their choices will impact our Critical Concerns – Anti-racism, Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence and Women.
Oct 31	Reflect on the words of civil rights icon John Lewis, in a 2012 speech in Charlotte, N.C.: “My dear friends: Your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union.”
Nov 1	Reflect on the words of Pope Francis: "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." - Pope Francis, 9/16/13
Nov 2	Pray for patience for the American people in the likelihood that we need to wait days or even weeks for official election results.
Nov 3	On this Election Day, pray for those going to the polls today , that they will be guided by the Spirit, for poll workers who may be under great stress and for those who may be tempted to engage in violence, that they might find peace in their hearts.