**MEDIA RELEASE**
**The Benedictine Way Election Day Prayer Vigil**
**8 AM - 8 PM CST on November 3, 2026**

[OMAHA] The community of The Benedictine Way invites you to their Election Day Prayer Vigil, an opportunity to pray together for our democracy and for justice, mercy, and peace in our nation. The vigil will run from 8 AM – 8 PM CST on Election Day, November 3, livestreamed at **www.youtube.com/thebenedictineway** and in person at Incarnation Monastery **(3020 Belvedere Blvd., Omaha, NE 68111).** At an anxious time, come enter into silence and contemplative prayer – for some of the day, all of the day, or check back in throughout the day.

"Our community has hosted Election Day Prayer Vigils since 2020, but this year it feels especially important to get out the vote and defend our democracy, as we are facing a level of voter suppression in our country that we haven't seen in a very long time," says Br. James Dowd, OSB, Prior of The Benedictine Way.

He goes on to say, "Our God is a God of liberation. Following Jesus in the context of Benedictine Spirituality on this Election Day begins with centering ourselves in prayer and continues with action – in addition to the vigil our community will be welcoming guests to our weekly food pantry, serving a hot meal, and driving people to the polls."

Offering reflections at this event are notable Bishops and clergy in the Episcopal Church. The service and speaking schedule is as follows:

- 8 AM - The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, *Bishop of the Diocese of Nebraska*
- 10:30 AM - The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, *Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis*
- 12:15 PM - The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, *Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota*
- 2:00 PM - The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, *Priest-in-Charge at St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, CA*
- 4:00 PM - The Rt. Rev. Antonio Gallardo, *Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles*
- 5:30 PM - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, *Bishop of the Diocese of Washington*
- 7:30 PM - The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, *Priest-in-Charge at St. Elizabeth's, Honolulu, HI*

Over the last few months The Benedictine Way has worked to register voters, drive people to the polls, and has organized with the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, the ELCA Nebraska Synod, and Sojourners to teach Christian Nonviolent Civil Resistance. With Bishop J. Scott Barker and representatives from other churches in the diocese, The Benedictine Way was present at the launch of the Interfaith Alliance *"The Vote is Sacred"* bus tour.

"Within that phrase, *'The Vote is Sacred,'* is a message about human dignity that is deeply rooted in what it means to follow Jesus." Says Abby Z. Ybay, Obl/OSB, The Benedictine Way's Dean of Community Life, "We remember our equality before the Lord as God's beloved children as we stand for the voices of all to be heard in a free and fair democracy."

Join The Benedictine Way in affirming and defending that dignity on Election Day. Learn more at **www.thebenedictineway.org/special-events/electiondayvigil26**. **Questions?** You may contact Br. James Dowd at jdowd@episcopal-ne.org or (531) 301-4265.