

For Immediate Release

Fall 2018

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September 29 – October 7, 2018

26th International Week of Prayer and Fasting Coalition

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Coalition Announces Global Prayer & Fasting Campaign To Combat Scandal & Crises In Our Church & World

Washington, D.C: Today our Catholic faith and the world face unprecedented crises: escalating global terrorism especially against Christians, widespread civil unrest, the accelerating breakdown of marriage and family life, corruption, scandal, and immorality throughout our churches and world.

In response to these crises, an international coalition of Catholic organizations is mobilizing for the **26th International Week of Prayer and Fasting (IWOPF)** from **September 29 – October 7, 2018**.

This year the Coalition is uniting with **The Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Legion of Mary, Regnum Christi, Priests for Life, Sisters for Life, Rosary Coast to Coast, and many other groups** to pray and fast:

- for Peace and the Conversion of all Peoples and Nations,
- to Build a Culture of Life,
- to Defend the Sanctity of Marriage and Family Life, and
- to Implore God for Holiness for His Church.

Father Gary Thomas, exorcist for the Diocese of San Jose, California, who was portrayed in the movie, *The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist*, said; ***“Catholics know that the devil seeks our destruction and is forever looking for openings to destroy God’s Church and harm souls.”*** *Father Thomas further said, “by sexually abusing children, Satan desires to destroy the icon of the kingdom of God. He wants to destroy the most innocent version of humanity, which is the child.”* *The scandalous behavior, in his opinion, was clearly demonic. For the sake of the Church, Father Thomas calls on all Catholics to **pray and fast** and to act wherever possible to root out evil.*

For the opening day of the **26th International Week of Prayer and Fasting** (which will be **livestreamed on www.iwopf.org**)—**Saturday, September 29th**—people are asked to participate in an all-day Eucharistic Prayer Vigil for our nation, our world, and our church at the **[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. from 9 AM – 4:30 PM.](#)** Registration is **FREE** online at www.iwopf.org where you can also **register to pledge your prayers and fasting**. People around the globe are also urged to participate as individuals, families, schools, and parishes by **attending daily Masses and holy hours, going to Confession, praying the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and fasting for the goals of this week.**

This year the Coalition is excited to partner with **Rosary Coast to Coast** to conclude the nine days at the National Rosary Rally on **Sunday, October 7th** on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. See rosarycoasttocoast.com.

Basilica Opening Day on Saturday, September 29, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. livestreamed all day at iwopf.org includes:

Dynamic speakers; the Global Living Rosary prayed by the Asian, African, and Hispanic communities, as well as members of the **Youth Rosary; Procession of the Nations** before the **noon Mass**; and Recitation of the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** and **Confession** throughout the day. Speakers will be:

- **Bishop Roy Edward Campbell, Jr.**, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. will be the Celebrant and Homilist for the noon mass.
- **Colleen Willard**, miraculous survivor of an inoperable brain tumor and multiple health problems, wheelchair bound and in constant, severe pain, Colleen's spiritual journey to a major Marian Apparition site was left able to walk again and was miraculously healed.
- **Ted Flynn**, bestselling author of *The Thunder of Justice: The Warning, The Miracle, The Chastisement, The Era of Peace* (co-written with Maureen Flynn); *The Hope of the Wicked: The Master Plan to Rule the World*; and others, Ted has been a guest on radio shows, spoken at conferences and seminars, and produced two Catholic Films.
- **Fr. Francis J. Peffley**, ordained in 1990 in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia and currently serves as the associate pastor at St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax, Virginia. Father Peffley is active with the parish young adults ministry, retreat work and pilgrimages, Catholic apologetics, and evangelization.
- **Fr. Robert Altier**, associate pastor of the Church of St. Raphael in Crystal, Minnesota has developed a series of thirty minute filmed programs entitled: ***Beauty, Truth, and Goodness: Fundamentals of Catholicism Catechetical Series*** which have been aired on EWTN since April of 2018 and will continue until May 2019.

In the words of Coalition chairperson, Maureen Flynn, ***"The current grave crisis in the Church and the world can only be fully remedied by Heaven's spiritual weapons of the Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, the Holy Rosary and Fasting. Our Lord, His Blessed Mother and the saints have told us that these spiritual weapons will destroy evil."*** ***"As the evil in our world is being exposed, we know that God's light is shining in the darkness and that as Our Lady said***

at Fatima,” “In the end...My Immaculate Heart will Triumph,” continued Coalition chairperson, Maureen Flynn.

In 2014, the International Week of Prayer and Fasting movement received an apostolic blessing from **Pope Francis**. The movement also received two apostolic blessings from **Pope Saint John Paul II** and heartfelt support from **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**, who proclaimed: **“You must do this week – God wants this. Prayer is the answer to the world’s problems.”**

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