



The Symbol of the Pinwheels

Pinwheels have existed for thousands of years. They are often seen as childhood toys and recognized as symbols of childhood innocence. The Chinese and other cultures have used the pinwheel as a symbol of turning from the old to the new, from bad luck to good fortune. The wind would turn the pinwheel, casting out the bad and replacing it with the good. During times of slavery, pinwheels were often woven into blankets symbolizing the hope of slaves to move from slavery to freedom. Most recently, pinwheels have been used in a worldwide movement to fight against child labor and to promote peace.

We gather with pinwheels to symbolize the innocence of youth and to express our desire that every child be safe wherever they are. All too often, many children and teens in our culture suffer abuse. Physical, verbal and sexual abuse can rob a child of their innocence and threaten their human dignity.

The pinwheels we planted symbolize all of those children who have been, or are at risk of, being hurt by adults in their life. We pray that, as the wind turns the pinwheels that our prayer, united with the free-flowing Spirit of God, will help reassure all children that we will support them in their healing. We promise to continue working to ensure that every child will be safe, loved and cared for in a way that affirms their dignity as a child made in the image and likeness of God.

It is the Spirit of God, often symbolized as a mighty yet gentle wind, that will help blow away the pain and the hurt, the fears and the tears of all children or teens who have been hurt by an adult. It is the Spirit of God, that mighty wind, that will move us to defend the dignity and protect the lives of all children and youth who God has entrusted to our care.

Thank you to St. Ignatius Formation and Ministry Office for the ongoing collaboration and music provided. Thank you to the Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Lifelong Formation for your ongoing support and partnership.

We give thanks to and for our students, parents, family, faculty members and friends who participated in the prayer service in body and in spirit, especially students from St. Procopius School, Pope John XXIII School and St. Ferdinand School.

Thank you, all, for sharing this special time with us.



Child Abuse Prevention

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION PRAYER SERVICE

April 9, 2021



Opening Song	Hope written by Tom Rosenthal performed by Packapella St. Ignatius College Prep
Leader of Prayer	Bishop Robert Casey Vicar General
Welcome	Mr. Michael Hoffman Chairman, Hope & Healing Committee
Archbishop's Address	Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Scripture Reading	Dr. Jim Rigg Superintendent of Catholic Schools Luke 18:15–17
Reflection	Fr. Michael Gabriel St. Gertrude Parish

Prayers of the Faithful

Mary Jane Doerr, Director, Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

Powerful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you... A prayer that those in leadership positions in our schools and communities take an active role in preventing child abuse and supporting the victims of it. We pray that they have the wisdom and strength to guide our children through difficult times and set an example for future generations.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Dante Hernandez, 3rd grade student, St. Procopius School

Dios misericordioso, permite que el viento lleve nuestra oración hasta ti. Una oración para que los niños tengan la fortaleza de ser honestos con los adultos cuando algo les preocupa y a buscar ayuda cuando lo necesiten.

Escucha nuestra oración en los vientos de Tu amor.

English translation: *Merciful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you... A prayer that children have the strength to be honest with adults when something troubles them and to seek help whenever needed.*

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Jada McCannon, 6th grade student, Pope John XXIII School

Peaceful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you... A prayer for our children and their future. May the right values of faith and justice be instilled in them to prepare for a new world that they will lead.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Jagoda Porebski, 6th grade student, St. Ferdinand School

Troskliwy Boże, niech wiatr zanieś naszą modlitwę do Ciebie. Prosimy za wszystkich nauczycieli i wychowawców o światło i umiejętność rozpoznawania sytuacji wykorzystywania innych oraz o roztropność, by działali szybko i mądrze. Pomóż im, by zapewniali bezpieczeństwo naszym dzieciom.

Prosimy, byś w powiewie swojej miłości wysłuchał naszych modlitw.

English translation: *Watchful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you... A prayer for all educators. We pray that they may have the clarity to identify situations of abuse and the prudence to act swiftly and sagely. Help them keep our children safe.*

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Kevin Foy, Director, Mission Office

Enlightening God, let the wind carry our prayer to you... A prayer for all children and teens to know that they are important, capable, and strong, no matter what their past may hold. May they hold their faith close to their heart to guide them.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Lord's Prayer	All (Please join in wherever you are)
Closing Reflection	Fr. Lawrence Dowling St. Agatha Parish
Closing Prayer	Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ St. Ignatius College Prep
Closing Song	O God Beyond All Praising