



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 and Christ the King Jesuit College Prep Mission and Jesuit Identity for the music and reading provided by their students.

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.

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



Child Abuse Prevention

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION PRAYER SERVICE

May 29, 2020

Leader of Prayer

Rev. Jeffrey Grob, St. Mother Theodore
Guerin Parish



Opening Song

Gina Montalvo

SICP Student

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us Your own, Your holy people

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today.

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Welcome

Mr. Michael Hoffman

Chairman, Hope & Healing Committee

Letter from
Cardinal Cupich

Mary Jane Doerr

Director of the Office for the Protection of
Young Children and Youth

Scripture Reading

Dr. Jim Rigg

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Luke 18:15–17

Reflection

Fr. Jeffrey Grob

Prayers of the Faithful

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Prayer

Peter Corrigan

SICP - Student Formation & Ministry

Closing Blessing

Fr. Jeffrey Grob

Closing Song

O God Beyond All Praising

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