



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 especially give thanks to and for our students, parents, family, friends, archdiocesan leadership and 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

April 27, 2023



Opening Song **How Can I Keep from Singing**
St. Ignatius College Prep students

Leader of Prayer **Bishop Robert Lombardo, CFR**
Auxiliary Bishop, Vicariate III

Welcome **Mr. Michael Hoffman**
Chairman, Hope & Healing Committee

Archbishop's Address **Mayra Flores**
Office for the Protection of Children & Youth

Scripture Reading **Mr. Greg Richmond**
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Psalm 36:5–10

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both children and adults, and animals.
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
Children take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.

The Word of the Lord. **Response: Thanks Be To God!**

Reflection **Bishop Robert Lombardo, CFR**

Prayers of the Faithful

St. Mary of the Woods School student

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.

Holy Angels School student

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.

Northside Catholic Academy student

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.

Augustus Tolton Catholic Academy student

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.

St. Celestine School student

Compassionate God, for all children who suffer abuse in the form of violence from the war in Ukraine and other parts of the world. For all children who suffer around the world and around the corner due to racism, poverty, political violence and domestic violence. May you comfort them with your peace.
Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

St. Therese School student

Loving God, we pray that all families and all faith communities strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people. May all know your love for them.
Hear our prayers on the winds of Your love.

Lord's Prayer **All**

Closing Reflection
and Prayer **Rev. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ**

Closing Song **This Little Light of Mine**
