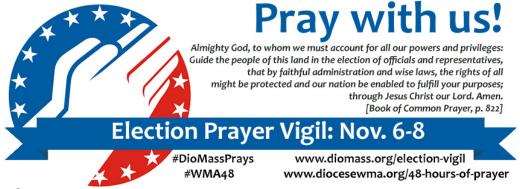


A message from our bishops:

As our nation approaches its Election Day on Nov. 8, we have a deep yearning for the Holy Spirit to be present in our national life. Individually, we express this yearning in a variety of ways according to personal conscience. Collectively, we are called to express this yearning through prayer.

We must pray that God be at work in our electoral process. We must pray for a peaceful transition, no matter the outcome of our elections. We must pray that the demonization of one another's opponents which has characterized this election not be further stoked by its outcome. We must pray that all those elected on that day be moved, strengthened and guided by the Spirit, to lead us through fractious and dangerous times. We must pray in gratitude for those who, with sacrifice of self and noble intent, step up to lead our common life.

> The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop, Diocese of Massachusetts The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Massachusetts The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop, Diocese of Western Massachusetts



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