



Farmworker Sunday

Petitions/Intercessions

Catholic Petitions for Harvest

The Lord and Father of us all, looking with benign providence on his children, gives them nourishment and growth by blessing the earth with the fruitfulness that sustains human life. As children of this Father, let us pray to him saying:

R. Lord hear our prayer.

You have called us, as St. Paul says, a field under your cultivation; grant that by doing your will in all things we may remain always close to you. (For this we pray) **R.**

You have told us that Christ is the vine and we are the branches; grant that by living in your Son we may produce much good fruit. (For this we pray) **R.**

You bless the earth and abundance flows in its pastures; grant that by your blessing our fields may yield the food we need. (For this we pray) **R.**

You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and the gift of the Eucharist; give us a crop made rich by abundant rain and fertile soil. (For this we pray) **R.**

You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us not to worry about that we are to eat or drink or wear, but to seek first your kingship over us and your way of holiness. (For this we pray) **R.**

(Time for a moment of silent prayer, then this prayer of blessing follows)

All-holy Lord and Father, you have commanded us to work the land and cultivate it. Your devoted people now pray that you will grant us an abundant harvest from our fields, vineyards, and orchards. In your goodness protect our lands from wind and hail and let a rich crop grow from the seeds we plant. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(National Catholic Rural Life Conference, www.ncrlc.com)

Interfaith Petitions for Justice

Leader: Let us continue to recognize the many people whose work is a blessing, and to call those who are in leadership positions to act with justice. After each prayer please respond:

R: God of compassion hear our prayer.

We pray for construction workers who build our homes and places for work and worship.
R.

We pray for injured workers who are too often neglected. **R.**

We pray for farmworkers and poultry workers who help provide us with our food but who often work in dangerous conditions and struggle to provide food for their own families. **R.**

We pray that our legislators and elected officials act on the cries for justice in our community. **R.**

We pray that all owners and managers recognize the dignity of workers and uphold the standards of our faith traditions by providing living wages, affordable benefits and collective bargaining. **R.**

(Please voice other prayers)

Closing prayer: God of Exodus, you went to your people in Egypt, saw their pain and set them free--free from the bondage of their oppressor. You walked with them to freedom. Walk with all of us who struggle for dignity in the workplace, for a living wage, and for fair benefits. Bless all of us who continue working to bring forth your vision—a vision of kindness and peace, justice and compassion, grace and mercy. Amen. (Interfaith Worker Justice, www.iwj.org)

Intercessions

Leader: For all poor and hungry, migrant workers, outcast and unemployed...

Response: We pray, O God.

Leader: For victims of discrimination, harassment and brutality...

Response: We pray, O God.

Leader: That farmworkers may someday win the justice they seek...

Response: We pray, O God.

Leader: That with compassion and fidelity we may work for a better world...

Response: We pray, O God.

Pause for Personal Intentions... (Respond: We pray, O God.)

Leader: For the labors of those whose backs are sore from bending, whose lungs cry for air free of dust and poisonous fumes, whose labors enable us to eat...

Response: We pray, O God.

(National Farm Worker Ministry, www.nfwm.org)