



AUSCP

ASSOCIATION OF U.S. CATHOLIC PRIESTS

A PASTORAL VOICE OF HOPE AND JOY WITHIN OUR PILGRIM CHURCH AND WORLD
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Archbishop José Gomez and the leadership of the USCCB,

The turmoil of this election season, begun many months ago, continues today. We, as a body of priests and friends, are dismayed at the divisions in our nation and our Church. As always, we pledge our support for you and we pray for healing and “a more perfect union.

During the campaign, the divisions in our church were sadly displayed, from the pulpit and in public. We witnessed partisan actions by priests, bishops, religious and lay associations.

The election is over. During the months and years ahead we pray that your leadership as Catholic bishops will emerge to unite, not divide, to heal, not to hurt. We urge you to follow the example of Pope Francis and, Archbishop Gomez, of your own initial statement after the election. The pope phoned Joseph Biden to congratulate him. They spoke of how they can work together on issues of the marginalized, the poor, the crisis of climate change and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees.

We are convinced that President-elect Biden believes in our common Catholic social teachings. By choosing to work with him, we will insist on our unwavering care for the unborn while promoting the life of all, the elderly, the poor and the imprisoned. We also believe we will do more to promote a reform of immigration that respects our borders and yet welcomes the stranger seeking asylum. We also think we will be able to work together to make sure that health care is available for all.

We pray for your leadership, that you regain the moral high ground where the bishops’ conference once witnessed Gospel values to the nation and the world. We ask the Lord and all of you in the bishops’ conference to hear our concerns.

(Signed) Chair and Leadership Team of the AUSCP