



PATRON SAINT OF THE DIOCESE



PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE

Mother of the Redeemer, in this diocese dedicated to your Immaculate Heart, with great joy we call you blessed.

In order to carry out his providential plan of salvation, God the Father chose you before the creation of the world. You believed in his love and obeyed his word.

The Son of God desired you for his mother when he became man to save the human race.

You received him with ready obedience and undivided heart. The Holy Spirit loved you as his mystical spouse and he filled you with singular gifts.

You allowed yourself to be led by his hidden and powerful action.

On this feast we entrust to you the diocese which acknowledges you and invokes you under the title of your Immaculate Heart.

On earth you preceded the Church in the pilgrimage of faith: guide us as we walk in your footsteps, comfort us in our difficulties and trials, help us to reach God.

To you, Mother of the Church, we confidently entrust our bishop, our priests and religious, our families, and ourselves.

Give us the light of true wisdom, a wisdom to be found only in your Son as you told us at Cana: "Do whatever he tells us." Enable us all to meet him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith, and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation.

> O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother of God and our mother, Mary!

To be followed by three Hail Marys and the invocation:

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Prayer adapted from Pope John Paul II's Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe (1979) by Monsignor Graham Schmitzer.

Immaculate Heart I by Charles Bosseron Chambers (1880-1964)