

PASTORAL LETTER 10 JAN 2019

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both by night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP, p. 134)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing on Day 19 of the partial government shutdown, asking you fervently to pray for those federal employees and their families across the country whose lives and livelihoods are daily being impacted by the standstill. Tomorrow will be the first payday in which they will be no checks for most of them. If you have ever lived paycheck to paycheck or have known others who have, you'll appreciate the terrible emotional burden they are under right now, the fears they're experiencing, as they face a still uncertain future.

No matter our political affiliations or how we might believe this crisis can be ended, our hearts and hopes and deepest prayers must go out to these our fellow citizens. They alone are paying the high price of governmental inaction. At the same time, let us pray for our elected leaders, that they are truly discerning God's will in seeking a just, moral way to resolve this crisis and to reopen the government. Even in this polarized political environment, we must believe that the spirit of Holy Wisdom can and will prevail. What is God telling us and our nation? What is God's purpose, God's desire? Let us still our voices, clear our minds, steady our courage, harken and hear!

Together with prayer is, as always, principled action. Should you be moved to contact our congressional representatives on this issue, please do so. What you say to them will be for you to decide, of course, a matter both of conviction and concern. And if you know of any of our parishioners or neighbors who are being affected by the shutdown, please let me or our outreach ministers know. If there is a way our church can help, we will!

Many blessings,
Fr. Gordon +