



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 · TELEPHONE (602) 354-2130

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

January 10, 2011

Text of Bishop Olmsted's Opening Prayer

(PHOENIX) — Responding to requests, here is the text of the prayer that Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted offered at today's convening of Arizona's 50th Legislative Session. In the prayer, Bishop Olmsted prays for U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all who were injured or killed in this weekend's senseless attack, as well as their loved ones and all who care for them.

Prayer convening Arizona's 50th Legislative Session

O loving God, Creator and Father of us all,

We come before you with hearts weighed down by the terrible violence that took place in Tucson on Saturday.

We grieve for Judge John Roll and all those who have died; we stand in prayerful solidarity with their families and friends. We pray for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all who were injured and for those who love and care for them.

Father of mercy, we commend them all to your loving hands, asking you to grant eternal life to the deceased, healing and full recovery to the wounded, and comfort and peace to their loved ones.

And Blessed Lord, we earnestly pray, may such senseless violence never scar the social fabric of Arizona again.

We pray today, too, God of justice and of peace, for Governor Brewer, for all our Senators, Representatives, other elected officials and all who serve in public office.

Protect them and guide them with your wisdom. Give them the light and grace to build up the common good, and to protect the rights and dignity of every person

God of goodness and Father of compassion, on this day when keen sorrow clouds our hearts and so many difficult problems lay before us, we pray with the words of St. Francis of Assisi:

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light, and

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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