



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Blessing by Bishop Walter A. Hurley on the 10th anniversary of 9/11

Father God, healer of all evil, lover of the good and righteous, bring us together today as we go forward from this place of prayer and peace. Keep us united as brothers and sisters that we might be willing to assure all who meet us that we are determined to keep peace among us. The shadow of the tragedy of 9/11 will remain ever with us, a healing wound whose scar will be ever present. We know that you are an all loving God, a God of power and covenant, a God of concern and justice. Help us to live those gifts that you have shared with us. When we want to lash out at those who are evil, give us a sense of justice. When we say we cannot forgive, lead us to the way of reconciliation. When we feel that we cannot take one more step toward understanding, give us the wisdom that helps us to understand that you love all things and peoples and loathe nothing that you have made. Bring us to the truth about one another that we will always and everywhere seek to know you because your imperishable Spirit is in all things.

Guide us Lord. Strengthen our ties with one another and help us always remember that our strength as a people is deepened by our understanding of your strength as the God of love who like a mother embraces each of us as if there were only one of us. Amen.