

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 18, 2020

Mr. Gregory Fox, T.O.M.
803 North Howard Street, Unit 254
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dear Mr. Fox,

Thank you very much for your suggestion to have a day of prayer on May 30, the Feast Day of Saint Joan of Arc and the 100th anniversary of her canonization. I think that your suggestion is a splendid one and I will have our Liturgy and Communication Offices promulgate this idea.

Your devotion to Saint Joan of Arc is commendable and I ask you to pray for us in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as we go through a very difficult bankruptcy process. I am sure that this great saint will intercede for us in our time of need.

Thanking you again for your suggestion and with every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John C. Wester".

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe

cc: Very Reverend Glennon Jones, Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Mr. Thomas P. Macken, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Ms. Damaris Thillet, Director, Office of Worship, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Mr. Abad Archuleta, Producer, Broadcast Media, TV Mass
Mrs. Celine Radigan, Director, Communications/Social Media

May 11, 2020

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archdiocese of Santa Fe
4000 Saint Joseph's Place, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Dear Archbishop Wester:

My name is Gregory Fox and I am a Third Order Marist living in Alexandria, VA. I have had a special devotion to St. Joan of Arc for many years, and try to do what I can to help spread devotion to her.

I like to consider St. Joan of Arc as the Patron Saint of Persecuted Christians. One of the greatest dangers to religious freedoms and liberties in our current age is the ongoing violent persecution of Christians around the world today. And in light of this continuing tragedy, I believe that St. Joan of Arc can be a strong and courageous Saint that the Church can turn to in intercessory prayer for help in protecting persecuted Christians during these dangerous times. St. Joan of Arc wore a suit of armor and took up a sword to fight the enemies and persecutors of France in her time...and I know that she can do the same in our time by means of her powerful intercession to Our Lord for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted in their home countries for the practice of their faith.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of St. Joan of Arc being elevated to the Communion of Saints by the Roman Catholic Church. St. Joan of Arc was Canonized a Saint by Pope Benedict XV on May 16, 1920. As a way to commemorate this centennial milestone, I would like to make the following proposal as a means to honor St. Joan of Arc. My suggestion is to put forward the May 30 Feast Day of St. Joan of Arc this year as a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. Simply put...to use the landmark 100th anniversary of the Feast Day of St. Joan of Arc as a special Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians in our world today. Note: May 30th falls on a Saturday this year...so it seems like a perfect day for a possible Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.

I know that this proposal is a little late...but believe that from my perspective, this particular event does not need much planning or preparation for it to be successful. If you feel that this proposal has merit...then my suggestion at this time is to keep it straightforward and simple. As just an example...at the basic level, I believe that all that is needed to get the word out on a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians on May 30 are the following two simple notifications:

1. A one paragraph notice can be placed on the Archdiocesan website indicating: (1) that May 30 is the Feast Day of St. Joan of Arc...and the 100th Anniversary of her Canonization. And (2) in honor of St. Joan of Arc, her Feast Day is being commemorated in part this year as a special Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians...and all interested are invited to join in by offering up a few prayers during the day for Christians who are being persecuted for the practice of their Faith.
2. And the same above one paragraph notice can also be placed on Parish websites and church bulletins in the Archdiocese indicating: (1) that May 30 is the Feast Day of St. Joan of Arc...and the 100th Anniversary of her Canonization. And (2) in honor of St. Joan

of Arc, her Feast Day is being commemorated in part this year as a special Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians...and all interested are invited to join in by offering up a few prayers during the day for Christians who are being persecuted for the practice of their Faith. And in light of the special 100th Anniversary of St. Joan's Canonization this year...parish Priests in the Archdiocese could also be given the option of offering their Saturday morning Mass on May 30 as an Optional Memorial Feast Day Mass for St. Joan of Arc (note that St. Joan's Feast Day is not listed on the General Roman Calendar).

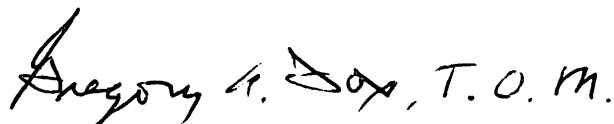
According to the ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) almost 300 million Christians around the world today (or 1 out of every 7) live in countries where they suffer some form of persecution...such as human rights abuse, violence, arrest, imprisonment, and even death. And I believe that an event such as a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians can make a big difference for those suffering from the denial of their religious freedoms...while at the same time honoring St. Joan of Arc in a special way during this centennial anniversary year of her Canonization as a Saint.

I like to think that St. Joan of Arc is always looking for a good fight to lead...and I can think of no greater time than now to call on her powerful intercession for persecuted Christians. St. Joan of Arc is one of the Catholic Church's great "Warriors Saints"...and nothing characterizes this better than one of my favorite personal expressions about St. Joan: She carries a sword, and knows how to use it to defend the Church, and those in need. The war on Christianity is real and violent in our world today; and it touches the Church in places all around the globe. And I feel that anything that we can do as the Body of Christ to help stem this tide of violence against Christians is worthy of effort.

As such, I propose that St. Joan of Arc be given a chance (through a Day of Prayer) to draw her sword and get in the fight for persecuted Christians throughout our world today...for I know that she stands battle tested, unafraid of a challenge, and ready, willing, and able to protect, defend, and intercede for all those who are under assault for the practice of their Christian faith.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter, and I sincerely hope that you will consider this proposal to have a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians on May 30 in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

In Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Fox, T.O.M." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory A. Fox, T.O.M. (Third Order Marist)

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