Good morning. In 1982, President Reagan proclaimed April to be the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and that tradition continues today. Together we can ensure that all are safe from sexual abuse and provide assistance and support to survivors who are on the path to healing. You can help in these efforts by offering your prayers for healing and protection. This rosary will help you to lift up their needs in prayer, offering them to God through Mary who offers her loving protection to all her children.

"He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground."

Many survivors of sexual abuse suffer in silence for years, wrestling alone with the agony of their memories and pain. We pray that the Church may always be a place where they can come to share their stories, be received in love and compassion, and be supported on the path to healing.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10 times)

Our Father. Who art in heaven Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now. and at the hour of death.

Amen.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, Save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of your Mercy. Amen.

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"You yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." The experience of sexual abuse is shattering and can make a person feel as if his or her heart and world is torn asunder. We pray for those survivors who are seeking healing and strength. Their path is challenging, but our loving support can make it easier.

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Hail Mary, (10 times)

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His mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

Sexual abuse affects not only the victim, but his or her family as well. Our healing efforts must extend to these family members, to alleviate their pain and anxiety and help them grow ever closer to God's healing love.

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As [the Apostles] were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

Jesus ascended into heaven in the presence of his Apostles, making them his witnesses to the whole world. We too are called to be witnesses, helping to build a society where the vulnerable are safe from those who would steal their trust and their innocence.

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Then the angel said to [Mary], "Do not be afraid."

The angel Gabriel greeted Mary with words to calm her fears. God wants everyone, especially the most vulnerable, to live in his peace, free from all fear and pain. It is our responsibility, as children of our loving God, to create an environment in which all can grow up free from fear of those who might hurt or abuse them.

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And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.

Those who have survived sexual abuse may feel isolated from the community, set apart and unwelcome. Jesus must have felt the same as the soldiers mocked and tortured him. As members of Christ's Body, the Church, we are called to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in need and offer them our aid, comfort, and support.

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They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

The Spirit brought the Apostles the gift of courage. No longer did they hide behind locked doors in the upper room, seeking their own safety. Rather, they boldly went out into the city proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and calling the people to repentance in his name. In the same way, we must boldly speak out to create environments where everyone can grow and learn in safety.

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[Jesus] was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

In his Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus as he truly is in all his divine glory. So must we see survivors of sexual abuse as they are-the precious children of God, worthy of dignity and respect. We must do all that we can to aid in their healing and to assure them of the love of God and his people.

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They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Simon helped Jesus carry his cross, helping him to bear the weight and the burden. So must we help survivors of sexual abuse bear the weight and burden of their experiences, helping them to find a healing God who is light and life.

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