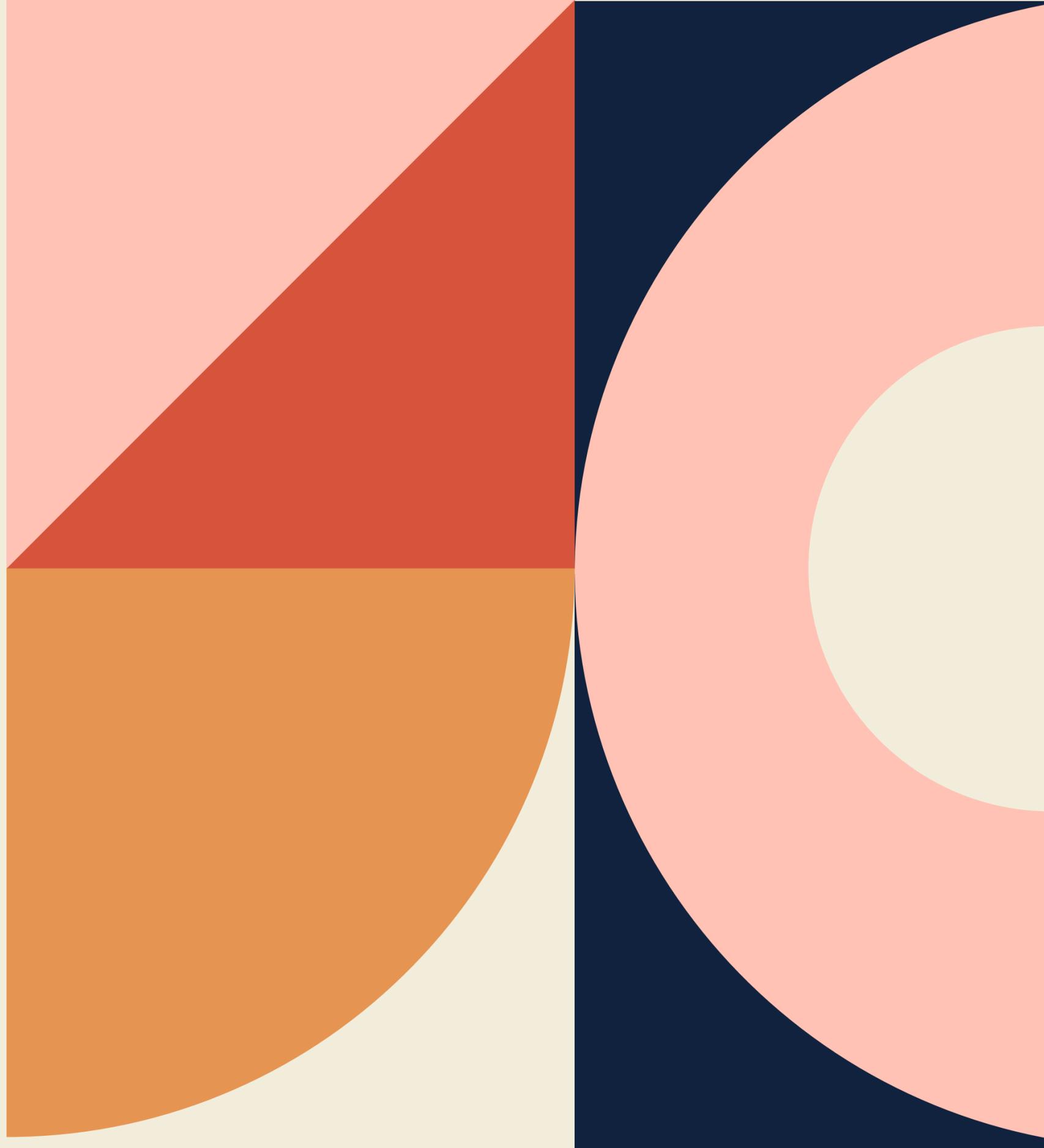


A CATHOLIC NOVENA FOR EQUALITY

*As the U.S. Senate Considers the Equality Act
March 2021*



PRESENTED BY:

CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE

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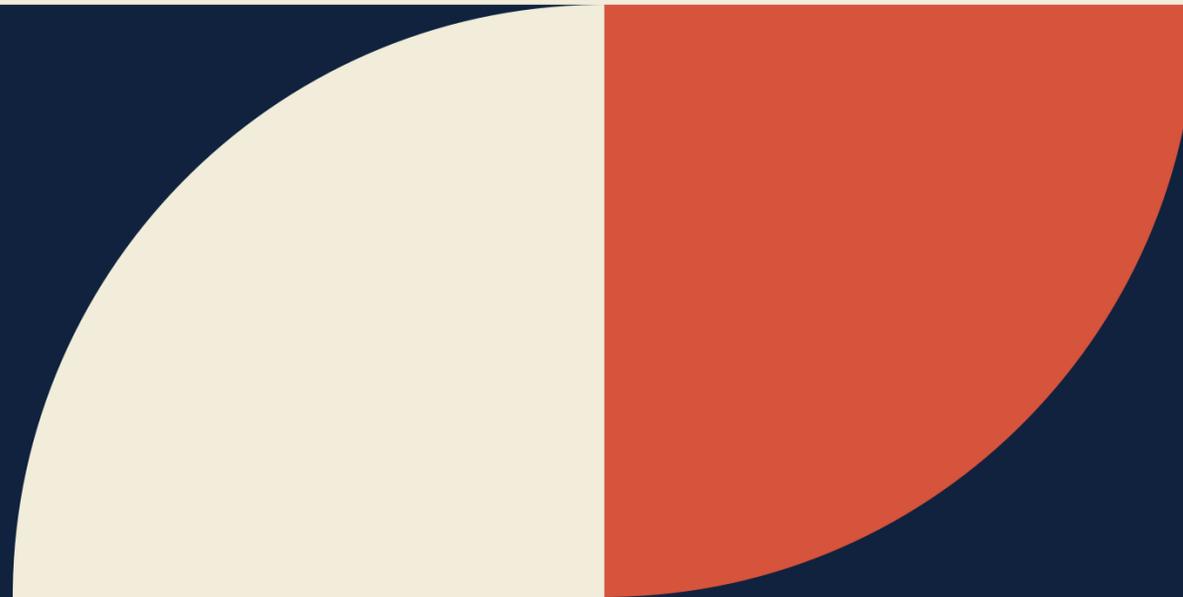
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DAY 01

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND JUSTICE

As the Senate begins its consideration of the Equality Act, we pray that our leaders may be blessed with Wisdom, grounded in Compassion, and committed to Justice.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

“But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.” Matthew 20:26

Hail Mary

Loving God, Spirit of Wisdom, we thank you that the Equality Act has reached the Senate and are grateful to those who have taken on the task of considering this legislation. We ask that you inflame the hearts and minds of our Senators as they deliberate. May they truly understand the challenges that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people face as we move through our daily lives across the United States. May they show deep compassion for those who face discrimination in employment, housing, education, health care, and more simply because of who they are and whom they love. May they work to ensure justice for all. May their hearts be open to the pro-equality testimony that they hear, and to the messages from people urging justice. May they see themselves as servants of the oppressed and be moved to ensure that LGBTQ people have equality no matter which state they find themselves in. May they help our country take another step on the long march to liberty and justice for all. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who showed compassion for all in need, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 02

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

We remember all whose economic livelihoods and ability to support themselves and their families has been challenged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

“Let the favor of our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:17

Hail Mary

Loving God, who gave stewardship of the earth to humanity, we thank you for the sacredness of work. We pray today for all those who have faced or feared discrimination in employment because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, their marital or relational status, or their support of LGBTQ people. We acknowledge the pain experienced by those who have been fired from or denied jobs, who have felt unsafe or faced harassment in their workplaces, or who have decided not to seek a position they longed for because they feared discrimination. Let us remember that You have blessed each of us with gifts and talents that can benefit humanity and let us do all we can to ensure that everyone is able to use those gifts. We pray for LGBTQ people who, overall, are poorer than cisgender and straight people, and for all who struggle to support themselves and their families. May we become a nation that protects the right of all people to work, and to be their true selves at their jobs. We ask this in the name of Jesus, himself a laborer, and One who labored for justice. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 03

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

We remember those who have been denied, excessively charged for, or removed from their housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

Hail Mary

Loving God, you created the world with an abundance of resources and called it very good. You have blessed our society with wealth beyond all measure. Still, many go without life's necessities. Today, we pray for those who face discrimination in housing. First, we remember those experiencing homelessness. We know that LGBTQ young people are more than 120% more likely than their heterosexual peers to experience homelessness. We pray for them and for a society where affordable housing is more accessible to all. We pray also for those who have been denied, excessively charged for, or removed from their housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Discrimination and fear afflict our nation, and your LGBTQ children suffer. Gracious God, we believe that you understand their struggle. During your ministry, you were rejected from your hometown and had “no place to lay your head.” You see your children's plight. Strengthen us, God, to do your will and pursue justice on their behalf. May our nation pass laws to secure each person's access to just housing regardless of who they are. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 04

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

We remember those who suffer from bullying, have been rejected by their peers and/or teachers, or have been denied educational opportunities because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14

Hail Mary

Loving God, each human being is created in your image with unique gifts and abilities. We thank you for the opportunities we have to learn and grow throughout our lives. Still, we know that many in our world face discrimination that impedes them from reaching their full potential. Our society is full of obstacles that hinder LGBTQ people in the area of education. We pray for young LGBTQ people who are bullied in their schools. Change the hearts of their peers and teachers to create a safer and affirming learning environment. We pray for those LGBTQ people who are pursuing vocational careers. May their talents be recognized and celebrated in every field of work. We pray for LGBTQ students in high schools, colleges, and universities. Send mentors to care for them. Provide teachers who will encourage and embrace them. May our educational institutions foster equality and acceptance for all, especially LGBTQ students of color and trans identity. Move our nation toward justice and laws that guarantee the right of all to learn in affirming spaces. We believe that you are on the side of the suffering and the poor. Give us the grace join you in creating a world that eases their pain and poverty through equal access to education. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 05

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC PLACES

We remember those LGBTQ people who have been discriminated against and humiliated in public places through the denial of services and other forms of exclusion.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

Hail Mary

Loving God, it often seems as if discrimination is everywhere. LGBTQ people are not safe in their jobs or housing, in education or in their communities. Every day, we read about LGBTQ people being refused services or goods based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. With the psalmist we cry out and ask, “How long, O Lord?” How long will commercial business be allowed to close their doors to the LGBTQ community? How long will business owners be permitted to use religion as a guise for homophobia and transphobia? God, you were a “man of sorrows” who experienced rejection when you walked this earth. We believe that your heart breaks with ours when LGBTQ people are hurting. Come to our aid and stir us to action. We pray for the fortitude to strive for a society that reflects your heart for the excluded. May our lawmakers enact just laws so that no LGBTQ person will have to suffer the pain and humiliation of discrimination in public places ever again. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer



DAY 06

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION OBTAINING SOCIAL SERVICES

We remember those who have not been able to receive the social services they need due to discrimination against LGBTQ people in federal, state, and local governments.

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

OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

"I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor."

Psalm 140:12

Hail Mary

Loving God, throughout history you have called your people to compassion and justice on behalf of those afflicted by poverty. You are a God who cares for the orphan and the widow, the hungry and the thirsty, the naked and the sick, the incarcerated and the stranger. We believe that you are a God who cares for LGBTQ people, too. In our society, LGBTQ folks are often denied social services based on who they are or who they love. Our nation is so far away from the compassionate example that you set in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Today, many who are vulnerable, suffering, and in need of aid the most cannot receive help because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It should not be this way! We lament the lack of equity, access, and representation in our social services system and pray for an end to discrimination. We pray for those within the LGBTQ community who face poverty, illness, and discrimination alone. Guide our hearts to laws and actions that distribute resources where they are needed most. Give wisdom to those who govern. With them, may we create a society that helps rather than hurts and that welcomes rather than excludes. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 07

FOR ALL THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE

We remember those who in need of affirming health care, who have been denied access, support, and the holistic care they need.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

“Just say the word and let my servant be healed.” Luke 7:7b

Hail Mary

God, you have healed many through human history, through the touch of a prophet, through Jesus’ care, and by granting us healers with compassion and knowledge. Today, though, many do not get the care and healing they need because of who they are and whom they love. We pray for all LGBTQ people who have been denied or disrespected when they seek medical care, and those who fear they will be turned away. We pray especially for our Black and Brown, Indigenous and impoverished LGBTQ kin, and for those who do not have a choice in health care providers. May our Senators understand their duty to ensure that all people must be treated with respect and dignity when they are sick or suffering or need medical intervention that affirms their identity. May medical providers treat each person who comes to them as if they were a beloved friend, offering the full measure of their skill, knowledge, and compassion. May we become a nation that protects the right of LGBTQ people to health care. We pray in the name of Jesus, who healed many considered outcast when he walked upon the earth. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer



DAY 08

FOR THE MULTIPLY MARGINALIZED, THOSE EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE, AND THOSE SUFFERING MENTAL ANGUISH AS A RESULT OF DISCRIMINATION AND EXCLUSION

Today we pray for the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community, who face multiple forms of discrimination, and whose mental and spiritual health are impacted on a daily basis.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Hail Mary

Loving Creator, you made us as beings formed for community, and call us to love one another. We thank you for the gift of intimacy and the desire and ability to share our lives with others, through family, friendship, and social relationships. We recognize, though, that some do not always find welcome. Today, we pray for LGBTQ people who have faced scorn, ridicule, rejection, even fatal violence. Whether they faced this oppression in their homes, in the community, or houses of worship, may they know this was unjust and undeserved. We pray especially for LGBTQ People of Color, especially our Black and Brown transgender and gender nonconforming siblings, who are attacked and killed at alarming rates. We pray for the safety for all who are multiply marginalized and face the greatest degree of threats to their lives, safety, and wellbeing. May our Senators and other public servants honor their duty to serve all people without distinction, and may our nation unite in cherishing and protecting the life and dignity of all. Loving God, may we learn to love all your people, as you have loved us each into being. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



DAY 09

FOR EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

As we conclude our Novena, we remember that the struggle to secure civil rights for LGBTQ people is linked to the struggle to attain equality and justice for all. We join our voices, our efforts, our lives with all who face oppression, and commit to ensuring human dignity and equal rights for all people.

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

OR In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

“Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?” Malachi 2:10

Hail Mary

God, Creator of everything and everyone on Earth, we are one family because we all have our Source in You. Even as we work and pray for passage of the Equality Act, and for LGBTQ people throughout this nation to have greater protection under the law, let us remember that when this bill becomes law, our work continues. As we urge members of the Senate to do their duty to our community, we commit to working for justice and equality for every community with the same vigor we have given to this effort. We believe that the dignity of every human being must be affirmed and protected equally; indeed our movement is grounded in this belief. We pray today for those who suffer racial injustice, who endure poverty, misogyny, able-ism, ageism, and for those discriminated against due to their country of origin or ethnic backgrounds. As we pray in gratitude for all who have worked for passage of the Equality Act, we also honor those working to end other forms of oppression. We pray that our leaders recommit to the work of justice, in considering this bill, and in all their acts of governance. May our nation become what we set out to be: a country of liberty and justice for all. We pray in the name of the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

