

Forgive Us!



Lord, human beings seem to find having power over others to be such an intoxicating thing. They tell us that for children, bullying in school is 'social combat' which is the way children climb the social ladder among their peers. Does that make those at the top socially the biggest and

best bullies?

We should not forget that during the 1990s in Bosnia, communities which were once close knit and also very diverse ethnically and religiously were torn apart by appalling ethnic and religious violence practically overnight when leaders brought up century's old grudges and taught people to hate.

In many places in the world, including America, political leaders sometimes foster ignorance and indifference and selfishness so they can put forth ideas and policies that do not serve people but serve their own desire for power. Lord, forgive us when we forget what you taught us about loving our neighbors and caring for those in need and let these things happen.

Help us to teach our children that 'power' or 'prestige' gained at someone else's expense is wrong. We are called to treat others as we want to be treated. All people are equal in God's eyes and should be in ours. Remind us that forgiveness is the answer to past wrongs. It is the only thing that allows all parties to overcome the consequences of those wrongs and move on for the good of everyone. Keep before us that political leaders are first and foremost the servants of the people who call them to lead. Fostering ignorance and indifference and selfishness does not serve the people. Amen

This week in your prayer time:

- **Those effected by gun violence** – especially in Dayton and El Paso. There have been 16 other incidents in which 4 or more people were injured or killed in August alone. At least 154 people have been killed by guns in the U.S. just this week.
- **People in U.S. custody on the border and families being torn apart by threatened deportations** – Reports continue to confirm that the treatment of refugees at the U.S. border is inhumane, cruel and degrading. The treatment of families is also inexcusable in mass deportation raids.
- **Pray for refugees, those living with war**
- **Pray for those facing natural disasters or economic upheaval** – severe flooding in India and elsewhere; drought in northern Africa and elsewhere.
- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and neighboring countries** – the Ebola epidemic in the DRC is a year old now. It has been confirmed that the epidemic has spread to Rwanda and Uganda. There is some good news. A new treatment has been developed that may make it far more likely that people who contract Ebola will survive.

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