

## A Prayer for When We Struggle with the Church

My God,  
you are infinite Mercy, you are Love itself.  
I love you, and I believe in you,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And because I believe in you, I believe everything you  
have revealed.  
I believe what you have revealed about this great  
mystery which is the Church.  
You know how I **struggle**. Help my unbelief.  
Help me to rediscover **the beauty**, and goodness, and  
holiness within the Church,  
which is sometimes obscured and hidden by the  
moral failings of its members.  
Help me to love the Church not in spite of  
but precisely because of her many human weaknesses  
and failures.  
Allow me to be your instrument  
to help heal your Church.  
Amen.



Excerpt from *Hurting in the Church:  
A Way Forward for Wounded Catholics*  
by Father Thomas Berg

**Our Sunday Visitor**

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## PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust  
placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers  
and sisters.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded  
in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and  
grace, so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.