

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sept. 2, 1962

God, we cannot begin to describe Thee or praise Thee sufficiently. We can only seek in this worship to be more fully aware than usual of Thy presence, and to recognize, respect and love Thee as the one Creator and Power of the universe.

Father, we are grateful for periods of vacation and holiday and change, such as many know on a Labor Day weekend like this. We regret the fact that misuse of the freedoms of this time, as well as carelessness on the part of many, is bringing sorrow and tragedy to some. May the total effect of the weekend be good.

We are thankful for the abundance and pleasantness of the summer season now drawing to a close.

We thank Thee for schools, to which our young soon turn for knowledge and sociability. Help the teachers and leaders in our schools to be aware of their opportunities in character-building, as well as in knowledge-imparting, and help them to strive to meet these opportunities

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with a strong sense of their great moral responsibility.

We are very happy for the return of some to our congregation, to the community and to their homes, who have recently experienced serious illness and other disaster. We regret that others of our number more recently have suffered illness and accident; and we pray for them that quick recovery and healing of both body and spirit may come.

Now in this service we commit ourselves fully and entirely to the effort to apprehend something of Thy eternal truth.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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