



## Monthly Prayer Topics for France

*December 2010*

### **In politics...**

1. The National Assembly was held from December 14-21. Discussions focused primarily on matters of internal security, touching on modernization and new technologies. The new judicial plan reinforces tools against the struggle against new forms of delinquency, such as cyber criminality, child pornography, organized crime, and new forms of violent and collective delinquency, notably during sporting events. Pray for the active engagement of Christians with such new initiatives, marked by the values of God's kingdom.
2. Lately, the French government faces a lack of respect from French society. For example, the Right seems to get hung up on its election needs, while the Left makes focuses on the use of rhetoric in an attempt to regain power. The result: for people living in the *banlieue* and *cites* is that the "law" is to go against the police. Pray for unity even in differences, and for sensible politics that place human rights and dignity before electoral strategy.
3. France offered 100 missiles to Lebanon, to be delivered in February....a decision that is not supported by the United States, which feels that France's ambiguity toward the Middle East places it and other countries in danger. Pray for France to renounce this offer, and to call on God's wisdom instead of "playing with fire."

### **In society...**

1. French students are declining in reading, math, and science skills. Persevere in prayer for teachers: that, according to their strong and immediate experience in French schools, they will propose pertinent and concrete solutions, and that they will be heard. Also, pray for Luc Chatel (the Minister of National Education) and his cabinet: that God will give them clear guidance to consider all facets of this immense project.
2. France, like several European countries, has become home to organizations against "Islamization" of Europe; *Les assises contre l'islamisation*, coorganized by 25 separate associations, met in Paris on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. Such organizations (and a cancelled September National Assembly meeting that cited France as being "in danger" of Muslims in title), prove that the difference between Islam, Islamism, and the Muslim religion is not evident for everyone. Pray that these organizations would have wisdom in these debates which center on personal identity and the values that define a culture.
3. Often, there is a certain chasm of understanding between doctors and their patients, with patients feeling a high level of dissatisfaction with their levels of comprehension concerning medical screenings. This is particularly true of doctors engaged in eugenics. Pray for health professionals to place the needs of their patients above "modern thought."

### **In the Church...**

1. Merry Christmas! In this season when we are entreated by angels to "be unafraid," pray that the fear which often engenders violence would be overcome by the Kingdom of God. Call for peace in both hearts and in the streets, and for French society to take responsibility and notice of marginalized youth, and all the excluded and forgotten.

2. In celebration of Christmas, the Catholic charismatic group "*Vin nouveau d'Angers*" proposed a prayer initiative on a national scale from December 16-24<sup>th</sup>. Join in their prayer that God would give France "a new birth."