



Monthly Prayer Topics for France

October 2010

In politics...

1. On October 4th and 5th, Sarkozy travelled to Brussels to participate in the Asia-Europe Summit. Pray that the economic, political, and socio-cultural decisions made will lead to a more just world with greater respect for humanity and for God.
2. A French-Russian-German NATO summit was held in Deauville this month. Pray for wisdom in political decisions, and in their implementation throughout Europe. Also ask God to bless European-American relations.
3. Paris will host an Israeli-Palestinian summit later this year. Originally scheduled for October 21st, the final date has not yet been specified. Pray for wisdom for the nations inspired by the God who was, is, and is come! Call for the light of God to shine within the hearts of the people involved in discussions and proclaim salvation upon Israel and Palestine.
4. October 27 marked the 70th anniversary of Free France in Africa. Bless francophone Africa and pray for renewed lines of friendship. Call for God's provision on each country, calling them by name and offering prayers specific to their situations.
5. The European Council was held in Brussels, Belgium on October 28th and 29th. Pray for such political summits to be times of preparation as France gets ready to take over the G20 presidency. Pray that European leaders will unite and listen to one another in regards to propositions of justice, notably in the regulation of financial markets.

In society...

1. The French parliament has recently passed legislature mandating that health professionals perform certain controversial procedures regardless of their personal moral stance on the issues. However, on a European scale, the EU rejected such a law... This is an historic reversal of politics as usual in secular Europe. Pray for the French parliament to respect individual consciences, and ask God to bless organizations working to protect human rights and dignity.
2. On October 10th, the United Nations launched a worldwide campaign against poverty. Pray for a strong mobilization of Christians in persevering prayer, and for God's reign of justice and love to come, on earth as it is in heaven!
3. Debate continues to circulate around retirement reforms. Pray that these debates will proceed wisely and reach a just conclusion, particularly for those people with disabilities. The controversy has led to many violent protests, even involving teenagers. Pray for these youth, that they will march under the banner of Jesus' love rather than rush toward violence.
4. Sarkozy attended the EU Conference on Family in Brussels October 14th and 15th. Pray that wisdom will pervade the presented issues in these difficult economic times, and that Christian organizations will be instrumental in promoting the values of God's Kingdom.
5. Increased strikes and manifestations have created an explosive social climate in France. Pray for wisdom in times of social tension, and for respect of authority. Call for God's plans to manifest instead in France!
6. There is a movement in France to "humanize" bioethics, centered upon respect for human dignity and rejection of exploitative practices. Pray for a strong contribution of bioethics to global society, marked by the values of the Kingdom of God.

In the economy...

1. France, like much of the world, is experiencing an increase in poverty and unemployment as a result of the global economic crisis. Proclaim our confidence in God, in whom we find our own identity, during these difficult times. Pray that the nations will be touched by the values of the kingdom of God, and for European reform that respects all people and their need to work.

In the Church...

1. Sarkozy visited the Vatican this month, in an attempt to reconcile the Christian population with the French government. Thank God for these discussions that witnesses to a respect for Christianity and its social impact. Pray that Christian values, filled with the light and wisdom of God, will be incarnate in the President's responsibilities and in the French government. Pray as well for prayer and God's presence to be daily realities for Sarkozy.

Other Happenings...

1. France remains under terrorist threat, with European governments citing 25 young Pakistani "jihadists" as a menacing threat planning attacks against Europe. Intercede for these young people, praying that they will not fall into the trap of violent action, but receive a revelation of Him who offers the way of life. Pray for good communication and pertinent strategy among European governments.
2. Recent medical research involving human embryos is causing much controversy in France, as elsewhere. Pray for a resolution that honors God and human life, and for a profound revelation of the mystery of God's sacred and invaluable gift of life.