



Monthly Prayer Topics for France

June 2011

In politics...

1. The French Senate voted 164-161 against human embryonic research. Several accompanying issues were also addressed by this vote: the prohibition of post-mortem embryonic transfer and surrogacy, an enlargement of the circle of living organ donors, and the anonymity of gamete donors. Medical procreation assistance will continue to be reserved for heterosexual couples. **Thank God for the ways that this law helps to protect human dignity and life, and pray for the senators involved in future revisions of bioethical law to honor the gift of life over science.**
2. As the "G20: Agriculture" took place on June 22-23 in Paris, France adopted a plan of action against the instability of agricultural markets. The Forum included delegations from Finland, Poland, Austria, Greece, Ireland, and Luxembourg, in addition to representatives of the French agricultural community. **Pray for the challenges faced by French and European farmers to be overcome, and for market instability to be addressed by a fair and equitable regulation system, and intercede for those persons who make their living through agriculture.**
3. Two European Council meetings took place this month: the Council on Foreign Affairs and the European Council of Heads of State. Major discussion topics included relations with the Middle East (including the situations in Sudan, Albania, and Belarus), environmental affairs, and immigration. **Pray for the Holy Spirit to influence such important political meetings and the resulting decisions. Ask God to raise awareness of the current deficiencies of the European Union: lack of vision and long term leadership, loss of values, and an excess of bureaucracy as true democracy diminishes.**
4. The National Research Agency has been named the principal operator of the "Investissements d'Avenir" program set in place by the Prime Minister in May 2010. **Pray for the French researchers who prepare for the future, and pray for research marked by the values of the Kingdom of God. Pray for a national dynamic that allows researchers to remain in France instead of forcing them to expatriate.**

In society...

1. France commemorated the 71st anniversary of the Appeal of June 18th, 1940, whereupon Charles DeGaulle rallied French citizens in support of the Resistance against German forces. This appeal proposed a response other than resignation in the face of adversity: it urged people to resist and to fight against the oppressor, against evil, against discouragement, for life, for a greater destiny. We know what happened next: through the persevering, organized, and motivated work of the Resistance and the final assault of the Allies, France was liberated from her enemy. **Ask God to help us in our ongoing struggle against evil, thanking God for His love for us. Pray for God to help us believe even in the midst of our unbelief (Mark 9:24), and for the light of God's love to shine unobstructed in France.**
2. France is taking strides to improve public accommodation of disabled persons. Despite the economic crisis, the budget towards such efforts is planned to increase by 6% annually. Improvements to education accommodations are also included in these plans. **Pray for solidarity between political figures and the disabled population, and for a profound change of attitude toward the disabled that is marked by the love of God.**

3. The “Hellfest 2011” music festival took place this month in Clisson, France, despite continual opposition to music deemed “Christianophobic.” This is the last year that Hellfest will take place in this location, as a high school is projected to be built on the spot in the coming year. **Pray for the performers and spectators involved in this event, and for the future high school and the students that will attend it – that it will be free from the negativity that is linked to the location by way of its reputation. Proclaim with strength of faith God’s redeeming power!**
4. Following several E. Coli outbreaks earlier this month, the French Prime Minister invited President Sarkozy to speak in Sarthe on the challenges associated with food quality and security. **Thank God for the quality and the diversity of agricultural products available in France. Pray for food security, an issue may become neglected in the face of economic crisis. Pray as well for moderation in the media concerning these issues, that the problems would not be overblown and induce unnecessary panic.**

Other Happenings...

1. The Tour de France will take place July 2-24! During this time, Le Tour de France de la Bible will also take place. The race provides the foundation for this unique opportunity for evangelism, as a team led by Eugene Rard reaches out to people all over the country. **Thank God for Eugene Rard and his teams, and pray for their efforts to have a strong impact on the communities they engage with. Pray for the athletes as well, that they would race safely and honorably and not fall into the trap of performance enhancing drug usage.**