

November brings about two large events in the USA. As many people around the world know, toward the beginning of the month, we will elect a new president. Toward the end of the month, we celebrate our Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln, at the height of our Civil War, in a proclamation asked all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.”

It seems that all over the world, there are contentious elections, strife, and wars. My prayer is that through the hardships, we can still find ways to give thanks to God and serve God’s people.

*Gracious God, who created all humanity in your image:  
Make us grateful for the companionship of other people, receiving them as gifts of your grace;  
Shape us into companions for all who yearn for community;  
And satisfy with your own gracious gifts those of our sisters and brothers who work in isolated places.*

*Jesus, suffering savior and praying priest:  
Empower us by patient bearing of injuries to spread the peace of your cross;  
By steadfast endurance, without envy or resentment, to demonstrate your victory;  
By steady and faithful prayer to carry our neighbor into your gracious presence.*

*Jesus, friend of sinners, companion of the outcast, advocate for the needy:  
Enlighten our eyes to see you in our needy neighbor.*

*God of grace, who, nourishing us on the body and blood of Christ, creates us into a new community:  
Make us to be indeed the body of Christ and a vehicle of love and joy in this world, until we offer the full and perfect praise forever.*

Deaconess Lisa Polito, Valparaiso, Ind. USA, DOTAC President, prayer from the Deaconess Litany, LDA (looking forward to seeing YOU in Chicago next summer!)