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**ACTS XXIX CALLS FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

DETROIT – Fr. John Riccardo and the team of the Detroit-based non-profit apostolate ACTS XXIX are calling for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting on September 24, 2020.

“Looking at all that’s happening in our country right now, it seems we’re in need of a lot of things,” says Fr. Riccardo, ACTS XXIX Executive Director. “Policy and law are crucial, to be sure. But as important as these are, they can’t fix the root problem. The real problem of American culture today is that our hearts are messed up. Only God can fix the human heart, and He loves doing that.”

The idea for the entire nation devoting a single day to prayer and fasting grew out of the weekly podcast series produced by ACTS XXIX, *You Were Born for This with Fr. John Riccardo*. An episode in mid-July about the need for courage in these times sparked a great response from listeners. While working on a follow-up episode, Fr. John was led to President Abraham Lincoln’s Presidential Proclamations where Lincoln called for a day of fasting, prayer, and public humiliation. Mary Guilfoyle, ACTS XXIX Associate Director, also felt led in prayer to call for a day of prayer and fasting and urged that ACTS XXIX take the lead.

“This is not about politics or any particular social movement or even the November election,” Fr. Riccardo cautions. “This is about asking for God’s mercy on our nation and for the healing of our hearts—all of our hearts, starting with mine.” His hope is that the entire country, Christians, Jews, Muslims, and all people of good will, would set September 24 aside as a true holy day, forego food until dinner, and pray for the conversion of hearts.

For more information about ACTS XXIX, their mission, and their call for September 24 as a National Day of Prayer and Fasting, visit ActsXXIX.org.

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