

## **A Prayer for the Fallen**

On September 28, 2001, James Gormly the Captain of Engine 40 wrote "Eleven members of Engine Company 40 are lost. I consider these members, still listed as missing, as still operating at the scene. We have not been able to relieve them from duty. I have always had full faith and confidence in them, in their ability to lead - especially now.

All these men and all the firefighters who were lost need our help. Their wives and children need our strength. Pray. Do not underestimate the power of prayer."

And so, dear God, twenty years later, we continue to pray. We pray together, mindful that we are not alone in our sorrow because you are with us, and we are here with one another.

We pray for the fallen. They are the ones we love so dearly and miss so deeply. We have entrusted them to you and ask you to continue to embrace them in your love. We don't really have to tell you God, since you already know. But we'll say it again - the ones who have died and who we entrust to your care are some of the best people - wise, brave, compassionate, joyful, whip smart and really humorous. They are family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. They are your beloved children.

We also pray for the crestfallen. This day marks a time of so much sadness and grief for so many. We ask for your care and comfort for the living. Remind us again and again that you are with us, and you always have been.

Every member of our department does their duty with the knowledge that any day could be the day they make the ultimate sacrifice. They know it the day they choose the vocation, they know it their first day on the job, and they know it every day thereafter. God, help us to always remember the loving sacrifice made by the 343 members of our department on 9/11 and the 256 members who died due to World Trade Center related illnesses. The bravery of those members, and the bravery of every other member of FDNY....that bravery is what keeps millions of New Yorkers safe, every day. And for this we are forever grateful. Amen.

September 11, 2021

The Rev. Ann Kansfield, FDNY Chaplain