

# Prayers for Syria from Pax Christi

## **Pope Francis: Peace is Possible for Syria**

The invitation is to pray for peace in Syria and for its people at prayer vigils, at awareness raising initiatives in groups, parishes, communities, to spread the message of peace, a message of unity and hope, works of peace then follow prayer.

I invite you to call on those who are involved in peace negotiations to take these agreements seriously and to make every effort to facilitate access to humanitarian aid.

Everyone has to recognise that there is no military solution for Syria, but only a political solution.

*Extract from Caritas International video, September 2016*

***We offer these prayers and reflections for use with groups, in parishes or for personal reflection***

## **A Cry for Peace**

### **Caritas prayer for Syria**

Lord our God  
Father of all humanity;  
Change the hearts of all peoples and their rulers,  
so that peace may be established among the nations  
on the foundation of justice, love and righteousness.  
May the Spirit of Peace descend upon the people of Syria  
and upon our world until all conflicts cease  
and peace reigns on earth.  
Amen

### **Pax Christi Prayer for Peace in the Middle East**

We come to you, God Creator,  
You are the source of life and beauty and power.  
Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.  
Your Spirit is the fire of love,  
the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.

You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,  
Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and  
forgiveness.  
You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,  
weigh heavily on the people of Syria and the Middle East.  
Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.

We renew our acceptance of your call.  
We promise to work :

*To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,  
To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,*

*To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,  
the disadvantaged, the marginalized,  
And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.  
Amen.*

### **Cry for Peace**

To you, Creator of nature and humanity,  
of truth and beauty, I pray:

**Hear my voice,**  
for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence  
among individuals and nations.

**Hear my voice,**  
for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer  
when people put their faith in weapons and war.

**Hear my voice,**  
when I beg you to instil into the hearts  
of all human beings the wisdom of peace,  
the strength of justice and the joy of fellowship.

**Hear my voice,**  
for I speak for the multitudes in every country  
and every period of history who do not want war  
and are ready to walk the road of peace.

**Hear my voice**  
and grant insight and strength so that we may always  
respond to hatred with love, to injustice  
with total dedication to justice,  
to need with sharing of self, to war with peace.

Oh God, hear my voice, and grant unto the world  
your everlasting peace.

*Pope John Paul II*

## Prayers for peacemakers

### Now, more than ever:

- We confess the spiritual poverty within ourselves and our nation
- We mourn the victims of violence around the world
- We believe that the nonviolent will inherit the earth
- We hunger and thirst for justice for all
- We seek the courage to be merciful to all
- We pray for the Spirit to grant us purity of heart
- We recommit ourselves to be active peacemakers
- We pray to be ready to suffer persecution for the sake of justice
- We believe nonviolence is the light of the world

*(Pace e Bene Franciscan Centre, Las Vegas)*

### Affirmation of justice and peace

**All:** I believe in God,  
who is love and who has given  
the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
who came to heal us,  
and to free us from all forms of oppression,  
whose suffering and death bring new life.

I believe in the Spirit of God,  
who works in and through all who  
are turned towards the truth.

I believe in the community of faith,  
which is called to be at the service of all people and  
God's creation.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of  
sin in us all,  
and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all.

**Men:** I do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor  
the force of arms, nor the power of oppression.

**Women:** I believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all  
people, in the power of non-violence.

**Men:** I do not believe in racism, in the power that comes  
from wealth and privilege, or in any established order  
that enslaves.

**Women:** I believe that all men and women are  
equally human, that order based on violence and  
injustice is not order.

**Men:** I do not believe that war and hunger are inevitable  
and peace unattainable.

**Women:** I believe in beauty of simplicity, in love with  
open hands, in peace on earth.

**All:** I do not believe that suffering needs to be in vain,  
that death is the end, that the disfigurement of the world  
is what God intended. But I dare to believe, always and  
in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and  
transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a  
new earth where justice and peace will flourish.

*(Adapted from a creed from Indonesia.)*

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