

Prayer for Justice and Peace

May 2022

JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH IN HIS TIME, AND FULNESS OF PEACE FOR EVER PS.72



“Our commitment to reconciliation demands that we promote justice and peace in a world disturbed by sin and conflict.”

-Article 6 of the Constitution of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

We are aware and painfully conscious of how easily ‘rape as a weapon of war’ is used in these circumstances by occupying forces. Sexualized violence against women and girls happens all too easily with the collapse of law and order accompanied by increasing poverty and the reversal of development. All of what is unfolding before our eyes is contrary to what the United Nations stands for and its very raison d’être. The current situation makes a mockery of the commitments to implement the many agreements that are at the center of UN conventions and consensus, most recently the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **(Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office Statement in Support of the Ukrainian People)**

Social love is “a force capable of opening up new ways to face the problems of today’s world and profoundly renewing, from within, structures, social organizations and legal systems”. Charity is at the heart of all social life.

Fratelli tutti – Encyclical letter of Pope Francis, 183,184

1. Preparation for the reflection of prayer – community and/or individual

Prepare a space for prayer. Use symbols or images that represent, Justice and Peace (The Globe, the cross, newspaper or magazine about justice and peace, candles...). Listen to the prayer of St. Francis and create an atmosphere of prayer. Ensure that your body is in a comfortable position, close your eyes for few minutes, focus your

mind and heart and be attentive to the cry of the people in your heart, open your eyes gently and contemplate the scenery.

2. Song for gathering, “the Lord hear the cry of the poor “ By John B. Foley

The Cry of the Poor
John Foley, SJ

The Lord hears the cry of the poor
Blessed be the Lord

I will bless the Lord at all times
With praise ever in my mouth
Let my soul glory in the Lord
Who will hear the cry of the poor

The Lord hears the cry of the poor
Blessed be the Lord

We proclaim your greatness, O God
Your praise ever in our mouth
Every face brighten in Your light
For You hear the cry of the poor

The Lord hears the cry of the poor
Blessed be the Lord



Opening Prayer: pray the Ps.34 or Ps.86

Psalm 86

1 Hear me, Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
2 Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; 3 have mercy on me,
Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
4 Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.
5 You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.
6 Hear my prayer, Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.
7 When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.
8 Among the gods there is none like you,
Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.
9 All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
10 For you are great and do marvelous
deeds;

11 Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with
all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.
13 For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the
depths,
from the realm of the dead.
14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O
God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.
15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate
and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and
faithfulness.
16 Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your
servant;
save me, because I serve you
just as my mother did. (*silence*)

Reading: Matthew:5,1-12

Reflection and sharing:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Let us remember the people today who are fleeing from their own mother land because of the selfishness of others. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. We are called to listen and respond to the cry of children, the elderly, mothers, entire families and all people who hunger and thirst for justice and peace.

(A moment of integration before intercession.)

Intercessions:

- Teach us to make a firm commitment where we are, in connection with the "Laudato Si and Fratelliti-tutti Platform for Action". Lord, hear our prayer
- Bless those who are working for Justice and Peace over the world to combat the devastating effects and destruction of the planet. Lord, hear our prayer
- Grant us to listen to your Word, to have a life of deep prayer and to live your Love, so that we may respect life in the image of Christ. Lord, hear our prayer
- For all those who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity, for those loved ones who are left behind to mourn, for the souls of those whose hearts are cold, Lord, hear our prayer.
- For the children who are being born into this world of conflict and violence, for women and mothers who suffer needlessly, Lord, hear our prayer.
- For all those who have been forced into unemployment, who long to return to work, for all those who struggle to support their families, Lord, hear our prayer.
- For the soldiers who are misguided in thinking that their bullets will bring about peace, for those who feel called to conscientiously object to military orders, Lord, hear our prayer.
- For the children who cry in their beds at night and wonder "what have I done?" For the mothers and fathers who must try to explain the unexplainable, Lord, hear our prayer.
- For all the children who have died before their time, for the soldiers who allow their uniform to strip them of their humanity, for the healers who are denied the opportunity to use their gifts, Lord, hear our prayer.

- For the redemption of souls of both victim and perpetrator, for those who commit themselves to the forgiveness of sins, Lord, hear our prayer.

Together with all those who unite in the same struggle for the human right and all people who gave and continue giving their life for the sake of others, let us pray: Our Father.....

Final Prayer

God who created this beautiful world and gave it to human beings, we commit ourselves to continue the work of its creation. We are privileged by your grace. Today, we recognize that we have abused your kindness and destroyed our common home: Our leaders are blind, sick, they have taken away our dignity, they violate us, our people are wounded, and all humanity is helpless. The cry of our brothers and sisters calls us to action, fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. May there be an end to division, strife, and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this in your name and pray for your blessings as we work towards justice and peace so that our efforts may bear lasting fruits. Amen.



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