

## **PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

### **“The Sustainable Development Goals, Building Blocks for Peace”**



*There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development*

*“The most pressing needs of our society today are poverty, human trafficking, forced migration, refugees, gender inequality, violence toward women and children, and religious intolerance.” 30<sup>th</sup> Congregational Chapter Direction Statement.*

### **Introduction**

The Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for Sustainable Development. (Preamble of Sustainable Development Goals)

## Reading from Chinese philosopher Lao-Tse



If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace in the neighbors.

If there is to be peace in the neighbors, there must be peace in the home

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.

**(Pause for silent reflection)**

## SONG

### **GOD OF DAY AND GOD OF DARKNESS**

God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night. As the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright. All creation still is groaning for the dawning of Your might, when the sun of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light.

Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor. Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more. Come and wake us from our sleeping, so our hearts cannot ignore, all your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.

Show us Christ in one another, make us servants, strong and true. Give us all your love of justice so we do what you would do. Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our lives a new, make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.

You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns. Shinning deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn. For our hearts shall wander restless, till they safe to you return. Finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.

Praise to you in day and darkness, you our source and you our end. Praise to you who love and nurtures' us as a father, mother, friend. Grant us all a peaceful resting, let each mind and body meant, so we rise refreshed tomorrow, hearts renewed to kingdom tends.

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**Reading: *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

The Sustainable Development Goals demonstrates the scale and ambition of the new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize

the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the ***economic, social and environmental.***

Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The new agenda recognizes the needs to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the rights to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

**In a spirit of reflection, the 17 Goals are read by different people**

## **The 17 Sustainable Development Goals**

1. End poverty and all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### **SONG: TO BE PEOPLE OF PEACE**

To be people of faith in times of doubt. To be people of hope in times of despair.  
To be (people of peace) x2, O God, your instrument of peace.

Where we encounter hatred, let us bring your love. Where hurt has been oppressive, your healing care. Wherever there are people who are needing to be free, make your Church an instrument of peace.

To heal the broken-hearted, to comfort those who mourn. To go to those imprisoned, bring freedom to the bound. To be a light for all who struggle to be free, make your Church an instrument of peace.

In giving to the hungry, in satisfying thirst, in welcoming the stranger, in comforting the ill, in being those who hunger for justice and for truth, make us all your instruments of peace.

Reading: Luke 4: 16-19

### **Silence reflection and Sharing**

*How are the Sustainable Development Goals and our call as Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd to “Eliminate the root causes of injustice,” related?*

*Which Sustainable Development Goal speaks to you in your context?*

*How will you implement that goal in your life and as Community?*

*Write on a piece of paper and share your reflection (the papers will be provided by the person leading the prayer). After sharing please put your reflection on a table and a relevant song is sung. **Song: Lead us on***

***Lead us on, oh God, lead us on. Lead us where we dare not go.  
Lead us on, oh God, lead us on. Be with us as we face new days.***

All of our lives O God, all of our dreams. All that we are and hope to be.  
All of our strength is in our unity as one. All our danger is discord.

Fill us with strength O God, fill us with hope. Fill us with courage to go on.  
Filled with the sweetness of Your Light and your Truth, we will find ways to share Your gift.

### **Intercessory prayers**

#### **Response to Petitions: Strengthen us, oh God**

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

#### ***Strengthen us, oh God***

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that the earth can support the needs of the present and future generations.

#### ***Strengthen us, oh God***

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

#### ***Strengthen us, oh God***

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, which are free from fear and violence, since there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

### ***Strengthen us, oh God***

We are determined to partner with others to implement this agenda so that the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.

### ***Strengthen us, oh God***

*(Petitions adapted from transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Preamble)*

### **Our Father...**

### **Concluding prayer**

O God, Creator of the universe, who extends your paternal concern over every creature and guides the events of history to the goal of salvation, we acknowledge your fatherly love when you break the resistance of mankind and, in a world torn by strife and discord, you make us ready for reconciliation. Renew for us the wonders of your mercy; send forth your Spirit that it may work in the intimacy of hearts that enemies may begin to dialogue, that adversaries may shake hands and peoples may encounter one another in harmony. May all commit themselves to the sincere search for true peace which will extinguish all arguments, for charity which overcomes hatred, for pardon which disarms revenge. Amen. *(By Pope John Paul II)*



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