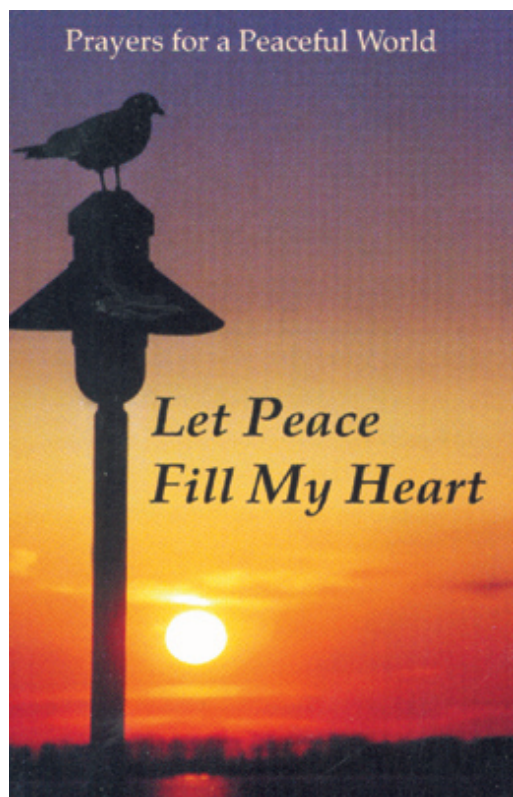


# Text of Prayer Cards

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\* Starred items also available in Spanish:  
Letanía de Maria de Nazaret, Item No. 539-169  
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Item No. 540-469  
Oración Musulmana, Judío, y Cristiano por la  
Paz, Item No. 536-237  
Oración por la Globalización de la Solidaridad,  
Item No. 540-470  
Oración por la Paz del Mundo, Item No. 540-474

**Unless otherwise noted, all prayer cards  
are \$0.50 each, \$10/100; \$80/1000 + s/h.  
For larger quantities or special requests,  
please contact our sales office.**



*Celebrating Our Diversity*  
Overcoming Prejudice  
by Cyprian Lamar Rowe, FMS

Beloved God,  
Creator of the just  
and the unjust  
Lover of all humankind  
share your eyes of love  
so that we will see beauty  
in all creation.

*Let us, God, as we pass this way  
make it a way that sings the glory  
of all your creation  
and celebrates the infinite variety  
of your divinity in all and through all.*

*Help us, O God, to understand  
that the violence of "isms"  
whether racism or sexism or antisemitism  
heterosexism or militarism  
is a violation of your creative will.*

## Celebrating Our Diversity, Overcoming Prejudice by Cyprian Lamar Rowe, FMS

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Creator of the just and the  
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Lover of all humankind  
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of your divinity in all and through all.

Help us, O God, to understand  
that the violence of "isms"  
whether racism or sexism or antisemitism  
heterosexism or militarism  
is a violation of your creative will.

Help us to understand, God,  
that we have neither knowledge nor power to  
know  
the infinite designs of worlds  
where by your grace we may inhabit.  
Help us explore the heights and depths  
of our need to love and be loved  
to understand that what we hate is often  
our sense of incompleteness.  
We shout against creations that we cannot love  
because we fear and do not understand.

We need to understand because we need  
to bow before them as being godly  
as we too are godly.

Help us, God,  
and in the spirit of Mary, Mother of the afflicted,  
let us stand by the cross of our own humanity  
loving it and knowing that dying to hatred  
is the only path to salvation  
in the name of our loving Brother, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Item No. 540-282

## Jesus, Our Tortured Brother Today by Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU

Jesus, our Tortured Brother,  
In this world, so many are  
forced to walk your path  
today –  
the suffering and pain, the  
humiliation, sense of betrayal  
and abandonment,  
for those with power, the Romans of today,  
continue to condemn others to modern crosses.

You said that what was done to the least of these  
was done to you and so each day,  
You are tortured anew.

Jesus, Our Guardian of the Wounded and  
Tortured  
Bid us to look into the secret prisons—the  
unmarked graves—the hearts and minds of  
torture survivors  
Bid us to wipe the tears of the families of those  
whose decapitated bodies were cast into the open  
sea  
Bid us to embrace the open wounds of the  
tortured.

Jesus, Guiding Spirit,  
Teach us to be in solidarity with those who hang  
from these crosses.  
Call out to those who torture, "Know the evil you  
have done and repent."  
Call out to the rest of us, "What meaning does  
love have if you allow torture to continue  
unopposed?"

In the name of all the tortured of the world, give  
us the strength, give us the courage, give us the  
will to bring this horror to an end, in the name of  
love, justice, and the God of us all.

### Action Suggestions:

1. Use this prayer card in your daily prayer and public witness throughout the year. Include a copy in your correspondence.
2. Educate yourself on the use of torture by more than 150 nations, including the United States. Visit the Web site of the Torture Abolition and

### Jesus, Our Tortured Brother Today

By Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU

Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition

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In this world, so many are  
forced to walk your path today –  
the suffering and pain, the  
humiliation, sense of betrayal and  
abandonment.



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Romans of today, continue to  
condemn others to modern crosses.

You said that what was done to the least of these was done to  
you and so each day,  
You are tortured anew.

Jesus, our Guardian of the Wounded and Tortured,  
Bid us to look into the secret prisons—the unmarked  
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decapitated bodies were cast into the open sea.  
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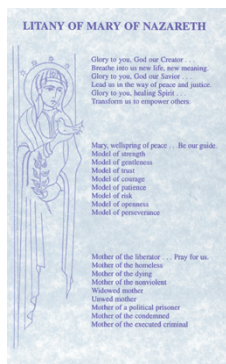
In the name of all the tortured of the world, give us the  
strength, give us the courage, give us the will to bring this  
horror to an end, in the name of love, justice, and the God of  
us all. Amen.

Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC) at [www.tassc.org](http://www.tassc.org); lend your moral and financial support to this prophetic organization of torture survivors to abolish torture.

3. Organize your faith community to endorse TASSC's call to make June "Torture Awareness Month":

- organize local educational events on torture in your community or parish, or a prayer vigil against torture;
- visit your local Congressional office and register your rejection of any rationale that justifies torture as a tool in the U.S. War on Terrorism;
- mark June 26th, the annual U.N. International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors;
- ask that torture be a key subject of the sermons in your Church; include it in your Prayers of the Faithful;
- visit [www.tassc.org](http://www.tassc.org) for information on scheduled lobby days, fasts, national call-in days to the White House, and more.

*Item No.540-480*



**Litany of Mary of Nazareth**  
**By Jean Wolbert, OSB**  
**in collaboration with**  
**Anne McCarthy, OSB, and**  
**Margaret Wehrer**

Glory to you, God our Creator ...  
Breathe into us new life, new  
meaning.

Glory to you, God our Savior ...

Lead us in the way of peace and justice.

Glory to you, healing Spirit ...

Transform us to empower others.

Mary, wellspring of peace ... Be our guide.

Model of strength

Model of gentleness

Model of trust

Model of courage

Model of patience

Model of risk

Model of openness

Model of perseverance

Mother of the liberator ... Pray for us.

Mother of the homeless

Mother of the dying

Mother of the nonviolent

Widowed mother

Unwed mother

Mother of a political prisoner

Mother of the condemned

Mother of the executed criminal

Oppressed woman ... Lead us to life.

Liberator of the oppressed

Marginalized woman

Comforter of the afflicted

Cause of our joy

Sign of contradiction

Breaker of bondage

Political refugee

Seeker of sanctuary

First disciple

Sharer in Christ's passion

Seeker of God's will

Witness to Christ's resurrection

Woman of mercy ... Empower us.

Woman of faith

Woman of contemplation

Woman of vision

Woman of wisdom and understanding

Woman of grace and truth

Woman, pregnant with hope

Woman, centered in God

Closing prayer

Mary, Queen of Peace, we entrust our lives to you. Shelter us from war, hatred and oppression.

Teach us to live in peace, to educate ourselves for peace. Inspire us to act justly, to revere all God has made. Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

*Item No. 539-079*



**Mary, Queen of Peace  
by Pope John Paul II**

Mary, Queen of Peace,  
We entrust our lives to you.  
Shelter us from war, hatred  
and oppression.

Teach us  
to live in peace,  
to educate ourselves for peace.

Inspire us to act justly,  
to revere all God has made.

Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world.  
Amen.

Item No. 539-064

Empower all people to live in your law of love.  
Amen.

*Pax Christi USA/Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Item No. 536-236*



**Pax Christi Icon  
Prayer Card  
by Brother Roger, Taizé**

O Risen Christ,  
You breathe your Holy Spirit on us  
and you tell us: 'Peace be Yours.'  
Opening ourselves to your peace –  
letting it penetrate the harsh and  
rocky ground of our hearts –

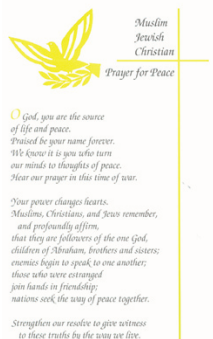
means preparing ourselves to be  
bearers of reconciliation  
wherever you may place us.

But you know that at times  
we are at a loss.

So come and lead us  
to wait in silence,  
to let a ray of hope shine forth  
in our world.

The icon 'Christ is our Reconciliation' was made  
for Pax Christi International at the Monastery of  
St. John in the Desert, near Jerusalem. Further  
information: [www.paxchristi.net/symbols](http://www.paxchristi.net/symbols)

Item No. 540-330  
\$0.50 each; 20/\$5,00; 100/\$15.00 + s/h



**Muslim, Jewish, Christian  
Prayer for Peace**

O God, you are the source of life  
and peace.  
Praised be your name forever.  
We know it is you who turn our  
minds to thoughts of peace.

Hear our prayer in this time of war.

Your power changes hearts.  
Muslims, Christians, and Jews remember, and  
profoundly affirm,  
that they are followers of the one God,  
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;  
enemies begin to speak to one another;  
those who were estranged join hands in  
friendship;  
nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these  
truths by the way we live.

Give to us:  
Understanding that puts an end to strife;  
Mercy that quenches hatred, and  
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.



**Prayer for a Globalization of  
Solidarity  
by James E. Hug, SJ  
Center of Concern,  
[www.coc.org](http://www.coc.org)**

Awesome God of cosmic time-  
space,  
Intimate God, in each heart,  
Energizing, Organizing God,  
weaving global solidarity.

Y'hw'h, Allah, Brahman, God-of-many-names-



and-no-name, Abba, Father-Mother, we thank You for threading us together into one stunning planetary web of Life.

Awesome, Intimate, Unifying God, forgive us for letting glimpses of Your Immensity swell our arrogance, dividing us from our sisters and brothers in whom You dwell through other images, experiences, cultures, revelations, longing for the Fullness that only our Oneness can reveal.

Break us free – as gently as you can. . .but as forcefully as we demand – from the idolatry of wealth, “free markets,” individualism, competition, consumption that blind us to the rich complexity of Your Presence, that reduce our sisters and brothers – and us – to consumers/producers/competitors/markets.

Break the enduring chains of slavery and colonialism that set us on such vastly diverging paths of wealth and poverty. Turn those paths toward each other into Your Path to Fullness-in-Unity.

Purge us of whatever blinds us to Your crucifixion-by-poverty in billions of sisters and brothers, whatever allows us to starve your Revealing Love in 800 million of our sisters and brothers, whatever allows us to plunder our planet, uncaring of our children’s children, careless of the Sacredness it displays.

Y’hw’h, Allah, Brahman, God-of-many-names-and-no-name, Abba, Mother-Father, alert us to Your Urgent Struggle to unite us – each in our uniqueness, all in our diversity. Fill us with as much awe and joy at Your Presence in our sisters and brothers, with as much energy and passion to work with You as we can bear – that we all may be One in You and You may be glorified in us. Amen! Alleluia!!

#### *Action Suggestions*

1. Say this prayer when engaging the economic web of life: at work, paying bills, seeking justice. . .
2. Enclose a copy of this prayer in your correspondence or display it in a public place.

3. Use Pax Christi USA’s prayer/study/action packet, *Toward a Globalization of Solidarity*.

*Item No. 540-472*



*All-nourishing God, your children cry for help  
Against the violence of our world;  
Where children starve for bread and feed on weapons;  
Starve for vision and feed on drugs;  
Starve for love and feed on videos;  
Starve for peace and die murdered in our streets.*

*Creator God, timeless preserver of resources,  
Forgive us for the gifts that we have wasted.  
Renew for us what seems beyond redemption;  
Call order and beauty to emerge again from chaos.  
Convert our destructive power into creative service;  
Help us to heal the woundedness of our world.*

*Liberating God, release us from the demons of  
violence.  
Free us today from the disguised demon of deterrence  
That puts guns by our pillows and missiles in our skies.*

### **Prayer for a New Society**

All-nourishing God, your children cry for help  
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Renew for us what seems beyond redemption;  
Call order and beauty to emerge again from chaos.  
Convert our destructive power into creative service;  
Help us to heal the woundedness of our world.

Liberating God, release us from the demons of violence.  
Free us today from the disguised demon of deterrence  
That puts guns by our pillows and missiles in our skies.

Free us from all demons that blind and blunt our spirits;  
Cleanse us from all justifications for violence and war;  
Open our narrowed hearts to the suffering and the poor.

Abiding God, loving renewer of human spirit,  
Unfold our violent fists into peaceful hands:  
Stretch our sense of family to include our neighbors;  
Stretch our sense of neighbor to include our enemies  
Until our response to you finally respects and embraces

All creation as precious sacraments of your presence.

Hear the prayer of all your starving children.  
Amen.

*Action Suggestions:*

1. Ask your parish or community to include this prayer in its Sunday liturgy.
2. Hold a public witness using the prayer to call for a new society dedicated to nonviolence.
3. Organize a local task force on nonviolence. Include members of churches, local government, and the business community.
4. Enclose a copy of this prayer in the correspondence you send.

*Item No. 552-244*

**A Prayer for Children**

Jesus,  
Out of love for us you came to Earth in the form of a child. In your lifetime you welcomed and embraced children. You brought the synagogue leader's daughter back to life. You healed the royal official's son, the centurion's servant, the widow's son, the little boy who had seizures. You restored Jairus' daughter to life and gave her back to her parents. You said that anyone who welcomes a child in your name welcomes you, and that only those with childlike hearts can share in your heavenly reign.



We pray for all children especially those whose innocence is stolen away by neglect, poverty, war, abuse, harmful work and social wrongs.

May your grace, working through the hearts and hands of compassionate women and men everywhere, enable children to experience love, healing and the joy of life.  
Amen.



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Amen.

*Action Suggestions:*

1. Educate yourself and others on one issue that

affects children.

2. Start a "child advocacy" committee in your church or within your organization.
3. Include children in personal, communal and church prayer.
4. Watch television with your children, talk to them about violence, stereotypes and how different people are treated.
5. Encourage people not to buy toys that encourage violence, racism and sexism.
6. Learn more about the United States Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers at [www.us-childsoldiers.org](http://www.us-childsoldiers.org).

*Item No. 540-422*

**Prayer for Dismantling Racism  
by the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team**

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against power and principalities—those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**PRAYER FOR DISMANTLING RACISM**

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities—those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.



Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

written by the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team

## Action Suggestions

1. Begin to speak out against racism wherever you find it. This can take a great deal of courage—especially with people you know well (family members, co-workers, neighbors). This should be done in a spirit of nonviolence, in a way that invited people to see how their behavior impacts us—not in order to condemn or make people feel guilty.
2. Look for ways to stand in solidarity with People of Color where you live. Build relationships with People of Color by being willing to take their lead in the work of building peace with justice.
3. Read the book *Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America* by Joe Barndt, one of the founders of Crossroads Ministries, an interfaith organization specializing in anti-racism training for religious and non-profit groups.

Item No. 540-438



**A PRAYER FOR GLOBAL RESTORATION**  
Good and Gracious God,  
Source of all life,  
all creation is charged with your Divine Energy.  
Ignite your Spark within us,  
that we may know ourselves  
as truly human and holy,  
irrevocably part of the Web of Life.  
All creation  
-each star and every flower,  
-each drop of water and every person,  
-each and every atom, down to its very electrons,  
explodes with the revelation  
of your Sacred Mystery.  
Our minds alone cannot fathom such splendor,  
Our hearts can only respond in awe, praise and gratitude.

### Prayer for Global Restoration by Michelle Balek, OSF

Good and Gracious God,  
Source of all life,  
all creation is charged with  
your Divine Energy.

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All creation  
-each star and every flower,  
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-each and every atom, down to its very electrons,  
explodes with the revelation  
of your Sacred Mystery.

Our minds alone cannot fathom such splendor,  
Our hearts can only respond in awe, praise and  
gratitude.

Forgive us, we pray, our ignorance and

insecurities which

- blind us to your Thumbprint writ large,
- deafen us to the sacred space between two heartbeats,
- prompt us in arrogance to demand and dominate,
- numb us to the destruction we've caused,
- hold us hostage to "either-or" thinking and living.

May we always walk gently upon this earth, in  
right relationship,  
-nurtured by your Love,  
-taking only what we need,  
-giving back to the earth in gratitude,  
-sharing what we have,  
-honoring all with reverence,  
-reconciling and healing,  
-mindful of those who will come after,  
-recognizing our proper place as part of, not  
apart from, your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage, we pray, for  
such radical transformation into your Kin-dom.

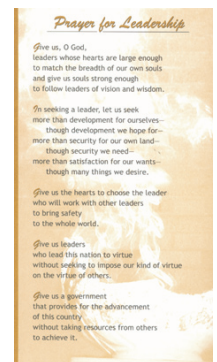
Then we, too, with the very stones will shout,  
"HOSANNA."

Item No. 540-291

### Prayer for Leadership by Joan Chittister, OSB

Give us, O God,  
leaders whose hearts are large  
enough  
to match the breadth of our own  
souls  
and give us souls strong enough  
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek  
more than development for ourselves –  
though development we hope for –  
more than security for our own land –  
though security we need –  
more than satisfaction for our wants –  
though many things we desire.



Give us the hearts to choose the leader  
who will work with other leaders  
to bring safety  
to the whole world.

Give us leaders  
who lead this nation to virtue  
without seeking to impose our kind of virtue  
on the virtue of others.

Give us a government  
that provides for the advancement  
of this country without taking resources from  
others  
to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves  
to choose as leaders those who can tell  
strength from power,  
growth from greed,  
leadership from dominance,  
and real greatness from the trappings of  
grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,  
to open our hearts to learn from those  
to whom you speak in different tongues  
and to respect the life and words  
of those to whom you entrusted  
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,  
give us the vision as a people  
to know where global leadership truly lies,  
to pursue it diligently,  
to require it to protect human rights  
for everyone everywhere.

We ask these things, Great God,  
with minds open to your word  
and hearts that trust in your eternal care.

Amen.

*Item No. B08-4*

*\$0.50 each; \$3/25; \$5/50; \$9/100 + s/h*



#### Prayer for Release of Political Prisoners

By Father Gerard Jean-Juste

Believing in God, we prisoners should  
always be grateful to you, O God, it is  
true!

Some of us prisoners may have misused your  
gifts. Some of us tried to make others around us  
appreciate your gifts, be happy, and share. But they  
have not listened.

Instead, they handcuff us, your messengers,  
like they handcuffed some of your prophets, such as  
John the Baptizer, your own son Jesus Christ, and  
many apostles. They, too, had tried to share the  
message, but the message put them in jail. While the  
body was in jail, the work continued, and we, too,  
spread the message of life.

Out of jail many of us do not find time to  
meet you – that's what we experience in jail. So many  
people never prayed before and now not only do they  
pray, they're singing! They become new people.

You, God, want to give us total liberation.

That's the reason why we say to you, God: we  
appreciate life in prison to bring comfort to our  
brothers and sisters wherever they are.

Today we pray for all political prisoners, not  
only in Haiti, but also all over the world.

May we by your power, God, find justice and  
be released from jail to public life. May we renew the  
good work and not be afraid, but with love in our  
heart for everyone, spread the message of freedom  
and love. In the name of God.

Amen.

## Prayer for Release of Political Prisoners by Father Gerard Jean- Juste

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While the body was in jail, the work continued,  
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released from jail to public life. May we renew  
the good work and not be afraid, but with love  
in our heart for everyone, spread the message of  
freedom and love. In the name of God. Amen.

#### *Action suggestions:*

- 1) Pray for the people of Haiti.
- 2) Add a petition for peace with justice in Haiti to your Sunday liturgy.
- 3) Call or fax: U.S. State Dept. for release of funds promised – over \$500M – to Haiti since 1994: 202-647-5088 or fax 202-647-2901. Ask for Anthony Beaver, Haiti Desk.
- 4) Keep aware of events in Haiti by visiting:  
[www.lethaitilive.org](http://www.lethaitilive.org); [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org);  
[www.haitiaction.net](http://www.haitiaction.net); [www.konpay.org](http://www.konpay.org);  
[www.ijdh.org](http://www.ijdh.org)



Prayer from Pere Gerard Jean-Juste, January 2006, while in prison in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Released from prison, Jean-Juste is receiving urgent medical care. He is Pastor of St. Claire Church, Port-au-Prince.

Proceeds from this prayer card support the work and development of Pax Christi Haiti, which works against human rights violations and all forms of violence.

Item No. 540-478

**Prayer for the Decade of Nonviolence**

I bow to the sacred in all creation.  
 May my spirit fill the world with beauty and wonder.  
 May my mind seek truth with humility and openness.  
 May my heart forgive without fail.  
 May my love be bound, enemy and outcast be without measure.  
 May my needs be few and my living simple.  
 May my actions bear witness to the suffering of others.  
 May my hands never harm a living being.  
 May my steps stay on the journey of justice.  
 May my tongue speak for those who are poor without fear of the powerful.  
 May my prayers rise with patient discontent until no child is hungry.  
 May my life's work be a passion for peace and nonviolence.  
 May my soul rejoice in the present moment.  
 May my imagination overcome death and despair with new possibility.  
 And may I risk reputation, comfort and security to bring this hope to the children.



**Prayer for the Decade of Nonviolence**  
**by Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB**

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Item No. 540-430

**A Prayer for Unity in a Time of War**

*Prayer written by Kathy Kelly*

"I implore you then, live up to your calling...Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives."  
 -Ephesians 4:1, 3~

Thou hope and joy of all creation,  
 You have given to all generations the power to seek you, and in seeking you, to find you. Grant us, we pray, a clearer vision of your truth, greater faith in your power, more confident assurance of your love.

Our sisters and brothers in Iraq suffer overwhelming grief and affliction. Bombed, maimed, mutilated, wasted, tormented, these our brothers and sisters endure unending war, much of it fueled by U.S. wealth and arrogance. Grant us, we pray, courage to overcome our cautions, to set aside our unjust comforts, to resist the works of war and embrace the works of mercy.

Grant us, we pray, the grace to hear deep in our hearts our Muslim brothers' and sisters' daily call to prayer: "O God you are peace. From you is peace and unto you is peace. Let us live our lives in peace. Bring us into your peace. Unto you be honor and glory. We hear and obey. Grant us your forgiveness God, and unto you be our becoming."

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**by Kathy Kelly**  
**Voices for Creative Nonviolence, www.vcnv.org**  
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*Action Suggestions*

1. Educate yourself about the history of Iraq and U.S. involvement in the war and occupation. Some websites are [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org) or [www.afsc.org/iraq](http://www.afsc.org/iraq). Then hold a teach-in at your church, school, or community center.
2. Attend the public speeches of political candidates or public figures who have supported or remained silent about the crimes of sanctions and war in Iraq. Ask questions.
3. Contact your elected representatives to ensure that no permanent ("enduring") U.S. military bases are constructed or troops left stationed in Iraq. Urge that the U.S. pay reparations for

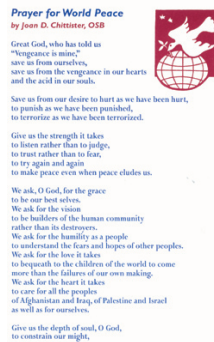
suffering caused.

4. Call local media outlets to encourage accurate and comprehensive coverage of the war and its effects on the Iraqi people and U.S. soldiers.
5. Pray and act daily for peace.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Item No. 540-440

### Prayer for World Peace by Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB



Great God, who has told us  
“Vengeance is mine,”  
save us from ourselves,  
save us from the vengeance  
in our hearts  
and the acid in our souls.

Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt,  
to punish as we have been punished,  
to terrorize as we have been terrorized.

Give us the strength it takes  
to listen rather than to judge,  
to trust rather than to fear,  
to try again and again  
to make peace even when peace eludes us.

We ask, O God, for the grace  
to be our best selves.  
We ask for the vision  
to be builders of the human community  
rather than its destroyers.  
We ask for the humility as a people  
to understand the fears and hopes of other peoples.  
We ask for the love it takes  
to bequeath to the children of the world to come  
more than the failures of our own making.  
We ask for the heart it takes  
to care for all the peoples  
of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Palestine and Israel  
as well as for ourselves.

Give us the depth of soul, O God,  
to constrain our might,  
to resist the temptations of power,  
to refuse to attack the attackable,  
to understand  
that vengeance begets violence,  
and to bring peace – not war – wherever we go.

For You, O God, have been merciful to us.  
For You, O God, have been patient with us.  
For You, O God, have been gracious to us.

And so may we be merciful  
and patient  
and gracious  
and trusting  
with these others who you also love.  
This we ask through Jesus,  
The one without vengeance is his heart.  
This we ask forever and ever.  
Amen.

Item No. 540-473

### Prayer in a Time of Terrorism by Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

O God, I do not know where  
to turn in a time of terrorism.  
I have no easy answers or  
solutions to acts of terror against  
the innocent. When buildings  
explode without warning, when the defenseless  
are murdered without reason, I am tempted to  
retaliate with vengeance. I am tempted to place  
the flag above the cross and put my faith in the  
state rather than the Sermon on the Mount. I am  
afraid to face my deepest fears of suffering and  
death, both for myself and those I love.

O God, be merciful to me a sinner and  
understand my weakness, my lack of trust. I lift  
my heart to a God of forgiveness, of compassion,  
of peace. I believe that You are not present in  
any act of violence. I believe that every human  
being is a child of God and that all nations and  
religions are embraced by You. I believe that

#### Prayer in Time of Terrorism

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O God, be merciful to me a sinner and understand my weakness, my lack of trust. I lift my heart to a God of forgiveness, of compassion, of peace. I believe that You are not present in any act of violence. I believe that every human being is a child of God and that all nations and religions are embraced by You. I believe that violence invites greater violence and that in the long line of history our only lasting legacy is love.

I recommend myself to nonviolence as a witness of Your love. I will cast out fear and boldly live love for



violence ignites greater violence and that in the long line of history our only lasting legacy is love.

I recommit myself to nonviolence as a witness of Your love. I will cast out fear and boldly live love for neighbor and enemy. I will cast out fear and renounce hatred, desire for revenge and works of war. I will cast out fear and publicly proclaim that You are a God of unlimited and unconditional love.

I recommit myself to nonviolence as a witness to Your love. I will embrace the suffering of others and wipe every tear from their eyes. I will devote my days to works of mercy and justice, not to deeds of death and destruction. I will give my passion to kindness and beauty and imagination. I commit to hope and the children of tomorrow.

Amen.

*Action Suggestions:*

1. Say this prayer daily either alone or in a group.
2. Enclose a copy of this prayer in correspondence you send.
3. Join Pax Christi USA's Friday Fast From Violence, For Peace – Shalom – Salaam.

*Item No. 540-471*

*Jesus Was a Victim of the Death Penalty*



*A Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty  
by Helen Prejean, CSJ*

God of Compassion,  
You let your rain fall on the just and the unjust.  
Expand and deepen our hearts  
so that we may love as You love,  
even those among us  
who have caused the greatest pain by taking life.  
For there is in our land a great cry for vengeance  
as we fill up death rows and kill the killers  
in the name of justice, in the name of peace.  
Jesus, our brother,  
you suffered execution at the hands of the state

**Prayer to Abolish the  
Death Penalty  
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Jesus, our brother,  
you suffered execution at the hands of the state

but you did not let hatred overcome you. Help us to reach out to victims of violence so that our enduring lvoe may help them heal.  
Holy Spirit of God,  
You strengthen us in the struggle for justice.  
Help us to work tirelessly  
for the abolition of state-sanctioned death  
and to renew our society in its very heart  
so that violence will be no more.  
Amen.

*Action suggestions:*

1. Write or visit a prisoner on death row.
2. Sponsor pryauer services in your parish for murder victim's families.
3. Clip out newspaper notices of victims of violent crimes and send them a note of support.
4. Plan a candlelight vigil at midnight (the time of most executions) in front of a government buiding to pray for prisoners on death row.
5. Contact the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty at 888/286-2237 or go to [www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org) to get more involved in opposing capiral punishment.

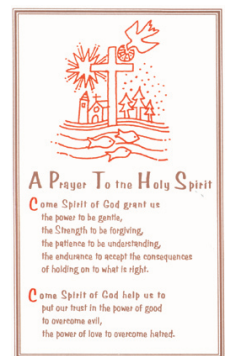
*Item No. 525-281*

**A Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come Spirit of God grant us  
The power to be gentle,  
The strength to be forgiving,  
The patience to be  
understanding,  
The endurance to accept the  
consequences  
Of holding on to what is right.

Come Spirit of God help us  
To put our trust  
In the power of good  
To overcome evil,  
The power of love to overcome hatred.

Come Spirit of God  
Enlighten us with the vision  
To see and the faith to believe in  
A world free from violence,  
A new world where fear  
Will no longer lead us



To commit injustices,  
Nor selfishness cause us  
To bring suffering to others.

Come Spirit of wisdom and love,  
Source of all good,  
Teach us your truth and  
Guide our actions in your way of peace.

Amen.

*Action Suggestions:*

1. Ask your parish or community to include this prayer in its Sunday liturgy during the season of Pentecost.
2. Say this prayer – alone or in groups – each day until confirmation.
3. Spend twenty minutes in contemplative prayer. Sit quietly. Still your mind. Breathe easily. Be with God.
4. Pray daily for peace.
5. Enclose a copy of this prayer in the correspondence you send.

Item No. 540-473



**Prayers for Our Everyday Lives**

*For Hope*

Surprise us, O God,  
for we often expect so little.  
Come to us in ways we cannot  
predict  
and come to us in familiar  
people, experiences, and  
words.

Keep us from living as if life is repetitious –  
but instead fire us with expectation,  
knowing that You move toward us;  
with life far in excess,  
far more abundant than we dare to hope or  
dream.  
In Your name, for the sake of the world. Amen.  
~ by Doris Donnelly

*For the Work of our Hands*

Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy  
One.  
Blessed be these hands. . .

that have touched life.  
that have nurtured creativity.  
that have held pain.  
that have embraced with passion. . .  
that have closed in anger.  
that have planted new seeds.  
that have harvested ripe fields.  
that have cleaned, washed. . .and scrubbed.  
that have become gnarled with age.  
that are wrinkled and scarred from doing  
justice.

that have reached out and been  
received.

that hold the promise of the future.

Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy  
One.

~ by Diann Neu

*Prayer in Times of Sickness or Trouble*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the  
sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city  
of God. . .  
God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be moved; God will help it when the  
morning dawns.  
~ Psalm 46:1-5

*For the Earth's Blessings*

O God, Creator of heaven and earth,  
May it please You to grant favorable weather,  
temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there  
may be food and drink for all Your creation.  
May it please You to bless the fields, farms,  
forests, and the water springs of all lands, and to  
bless all work there to bring forth food needed by  
Your people.  
May it please You to draw all to enjoy and value  
the natural world in which You have placed us.  
May it please You to look with favor on all who  
care for the earth, its waters and its skies, that  
the riches of Your creation may be enjoyed from  
generation to generation. Amen.  
~Synapses



*After a Discussion*

We dare to believe, O God, that there has been purpose in our being together. For each comment and question offered, for the risks taken, for the efforts made to search for truth, and for the grace extended when a different viewpoint wounded or angered – for every insight that called us to reconsider our motives and intentions, we give you thanks. Forgive us we pray for any unwillingness or lack of discipline that undercut what we might have been or done together in your name. May your Spirit sustain us in our grateful acceptance of your mercy, empower us to forgive ourselves and each other, and provoke a renewed commitment to live as Christ's body in your world. Amen.

~ Doris Donnelly

*For Meals*

Creator of the Universe, the seas, the stars –  
We gather this day for our daily bread.  
Out of the earth  
you bring forth rain so grain will grow,  
you bring forth sun so fruit will grow.

We bless and promise to protect  
all that nourishes growth  
in the earth  
in our spirits and  
in our world.

As we share this food we remember our  
interdependence with each other and with the  
earth. Let there be only good times between us.  
In the name of your Spirit. Amen.

*For Inner Peace*

May God support us all the day long,  
till the shadows lengthen  
and the evening comes  
and the busy world is hushed  
and the fever of life is over  
and our work is done –  
then in God's mercy –  
may God give us a safe lodging  
and a holy rest  
and peace at the last.

~ attributed to John Henry Newman

Except for the prayer from Psalm 46, all prayers are from *The Fire of Peace: A Prayer Book* © Pax Christi USA (minor adaptations made).

*Item No. 540-436*

*\$0.50 each; 25/\$4.50; 50/\$8; 100/\$14; 500/\$65;  
1000/\$125 + s/h*

**Prayers for a Peaceful World  
Let Peace Fill my Heart**

Imagine ...  
if we took a few moments each  
day to reflect and pray for peace  
in our hearts, our community,  
our nation and the world.

*Sunday*

Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill my heart,  
my world, my universe.  
Amen.

Universal Peace Prayer

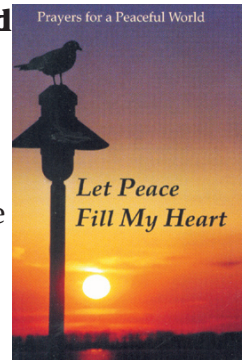
*Monday*

Keep us, O God,  
from all pettiness.  
Let us be large in thought,  
in word, in deed.  
Let us be done  
with fault-finding  
and leave off all self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense  
and meet each other face to face,  
without self-pity  
and without prejudice.

Grant that we may realize that  
it is the little things of life that  
create differences, that in the  
big things of life we are as one.

And, O God,  
let us not forget to be kind.

Mary Stewart



*Tuesday*

I am Peace  
surrounded by Peace  
secure in Peace.  
Peace protects me  
Peace supports me  
Peace is in me  
Peace is mine –  
All is well.

Peace to all beings  
Peace among all beings  
Peace from all beings  
I am steeped in Peace  
Absorbed in Peace  
In the streets, at our work,  
having peaceful thoughts,  
Peaceful words, peaceful acts.  
A Buddhist Meditation

*Wednesday*

The world before me  
is restored in beauty.  
The world behind me  
is restored in beauty.  
The world above me  
is restored in beauty.  
All things around me  
are restored in beauty.

It is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.

Native American Prayer

*Thursday*

Let nothing disturb you.  
Let nothing frighten you.

All things are changing.  
God alone is changeless.  
Patience attains the good.

One who has God  
lacks nothing.

God alone fills all our needs.  
St. Teresa of Avila

*Friday*

Lord, make me  
an instrument of your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
From the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

*Saturday*

If anyone speaks ill of you,  
praise them always.  
If anyone injures you,  
serve them nicely.  
If anyone persecutes you,  
help them in all possible ways.  
You will attain  
immense strength.  
You will control  
anger and pride.  
You will enjoy  
peace, poise and serenity.  
You will become divine.  
Swami Sivananda

*Item No. 540-435*

*\$0.50 each; 25/\$4.50; 50/\$8; 100/\$14; 500/\$65;  
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I need reminders of my inner worth,  
reminders stronger than my doubts,  
deeper than the compliments of friends,  
more lasting than discouragement or fear.  
Help me to learn your inner way of peace.

Show me the preciousness of every life:  
the poor whose dignity is wrapped in rags,  
the weak who carry toughness as a shield,  
the frightened pretending they are brave.  
Help me to learn your gentle way of peace.

Make me aware of other people's pain,  
whether from sickness, guns, or words.  
Let me be touched by their afflicted lives  
and make my life more generous and fair.  
Help me to learn your healing way of peace.

## **Student's Prayer for Peace**

I need reminders of my inner  
worth,  
reminders stronger than my  
doubts,  
deeper than the compliments of  
friends,  
more lasting than  
discouragement or fear.

Help me to learn your inner way of peace.

Show me the preciousness of every life;  
The poor whose dignity is wrapped in rags,  
the weak who carry toughness as a shield,  
the frightened pretending they are brave.  
Help me to learn your gentle way of peace.

Make me aware of other people's pain,  
whether from sickness, guns, or words.  
Let me be touched by their afflicted lives  
and make my life more generous and fair.  
Help me to learn your healing way of peace.

Open my mind to see opposing truths;  
teach me to listen to all who disagree,  
honoring their values and their voice,  
stretching my vision to include another view.  
Help me to learn your loving way of peace.

Give me patience and the time to grow:  
time to practice what I know you teach;  
patience for the seeds of peace to sprout,  
to blossom and bear fruit for all my life.  
Help me to learn your patient way of peace.

*Item No. 540-261*

### A Teacher's Prayer

Dear teacher of teachers,

You worked like me with  
students who sometimes ...

- came unprepared
- had short attention

spans

- missed the point

the lesson

- failed to complete assignments
- squabbled during breaks
- needed tutoring after class
- interrupted your preparation
- made you miss your lunch
- sought approval more than insight.

Your time ran out

before your seminars were finished,  
before your students mastered your message,  
before your favorite stories had been told.  
Did you wonder at the graduation party  
how much your students had missed?

In the end,

the administrators questioned your methods;  
the school board challenged your credentials;

the alumni kept a timidly low profile;  
the politicians and citizens washed their hands;  
you were the scapegoat for everyone's sins.

Nevertheless, you challenged your students  
to live not in guilt or in anger but in love.  
You entrusted them with responsibility  
and assured them of your affection and support.  
You bonded them with peace and the promise  
to personally join them at every reunion.

Gentle, attentive teacher,

Help me be sensitive and responsive to my  
students,  
never threatening, dominating, or defensive.  
Guide me to model the openness  
and fairness that I teach,  
so I confer peace on even the restless spirits.  
Above all, no matter how much I think I know,  
please help me grow and continue learning.  
Keep me teachable.

Your "Student" Teacher

*Item No. 540-246*



of

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