

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

By Pope Francis

Holy Mother, look at us!
We stand before you.
You are our Mother and you know
our hurts and our struggles.

Queen of Peace, you suffer with us and for us,
as you see so many of your children suffering
from the conflicts and wars
that are tearing our world apart.

Blessed Mother, in this dark hour, we look to you,
and in the light of your countenance,
we entrust ourselves and our problems
to your maternal heart
which knows our fears and anxieties.

How great was your concern
when there was no place for Jesus at the inn!
How great was your fear
when you fled in haste to Egypt
because Herod sought to kill him!
How great was your anguish
before you found him in the Temple!

Yet, in the midst of these trials,
you showed your strength,
you acted boldly, you trusted in God,
you responded to concern with tender care,
to fear with love, to anguish with acceptance.

Blessed Mother, you did not step back.
At decisive moments, you always took initiative.
With haste you visited Elizabeth.
At the wedding feast of Cana,
you prompted our Lord's first miracle.
In the Upper Room, you kept the disciples united.

And when on Calvary,
a sword pierced your heart,
by your humility and strength,
you kept alive the hope of Easter
through the night of sorrow.

Blessed Mother,
once more take the initiative for us,
in these times torn by conflict
and laid waste by the fire of arms.

Turn your eyes of mercy toward our human family,
which has strayed from the path of peace,
has preferred Cain to Abel,
and has lost the ability to see each other
as brothers and sisters dwelling in a common home.

Intercede for our world, in turmoil and great danger.
Teach us to cherish and care for life,
each and every human life,
and to repudiate the folly of war,
which sows death and threatens our future.

Holy Mary, how many times have you come,
urging prayer and repentance.
But caught up in our own needs
and distracted by the things of this world,
we have turned a deaf ear to your appeals.

Blessed Mother, in your love for us,
you never abandon us.
Lead us by the hand and bring us to conversion;
help us once again to put God first.
Help us to preserve unity in the Church
and to be artisans of communion in our world.

Make us realize once again
the importance of the role we play;
strengthen our sense of responsibility
for the cause of peace
as men and women called to pray,
worship, intercede, and make reparation
for the whole human race.

By ourselves, we cannot succeed.
Without your Son, we can do nothing.
But you bring us back to Jesus, who is our peace.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother,
we come before you
and we seek refuge in your Immaculate Heart.

Mother of Mercy, we appeal for mercy!
Queen of Peace, we appeal for peace!
Touch the hearts of those imprisoned by hatred;
convert those who cause and provoke conflict.

Dry the tears of the countless children who weep.
Be present to those who are elderly and alone.
Strengthen the wounded and the sick.
Protect those forced to leave
their lands and their loved ones.
Console the crestfallen. Awaken new hope.

To you we entrust and consecrate our lives
and every fiber of our being:
all that we possess and all that we are forever.

To you we consecrate the Church,
so that in her witness to the love of Jesus
before the world,
she may be a sign of harmony
and an instrument of peace.

To you we consecrate our world,
to you we consecrate especially
those countries and regions at war.

Blessed Mother,
your faithful people call you the dawn of salvation.
Grant that glimmers of light
may illumine the dark night of conflict.

Dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit,
inspire leaders of nations to seek paths of peace.

Queen of All Peoples,
reconcile your children, seduced by evil,
blinded by power and hate.

You, who are close to all, shorten our distances.
You, who have compassion on everyone,
teach us to care for one another.
You, who reveal the Lord's tender love,
make us witnesses of his peace and consolation.

Mary, Queen of Peace,
pour forth into our hearts
God's gift of harmony. Amen.