

A Prayer for Peace in Syria

**Call to Prayer**: As we gather as a community in prayer for Syria, we ask God in whom we are one human family, to provide a pathway to peace through dialogue, respectful listening, and a commitment by all parties to end violence in Syria.

 **(A moment of silence)**

**Song**: **World Peace Prayer**

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from wary to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

1. Still all the angry cries, 2. So many lonely hearts, so many broken

Still all the angry guns, lives, longing for love to break into their

Still now your people die, darkness. Come, teach us love, come

Earth’s sons and daughters. teach us peace, come and teach us

Let justice roll, let mercy pour down, your way of compassion.

Come and teach us your way of compassion

3. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,

Let us begin to grow into your people. We can be love,

 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion.

***Reflective Reading of An Appeal for Peace***

By Pope Francis

1. Today, dear brothers and sisters, I wish to add my voice to the cry which rises up with increasing anguish from every part of the world, from every people, from the heart of each person, from the one great family which is humanity; it is the cry for peace! It is a cry which declares with force; we want a peaceful world; we want to be men and women of peace; and we want in our society, torn apart by divisions and conflict, that peace break out! War never again!

 **Response*: Peace is a precious gift which must be promoted and protected*.**

1. I ask each party in this conflict to listen to the voice of their own conscience, not to close themselves in solely in their own interests, but rather to look at each as brothers and sisters and courageously to follow the path of encounter and negotiation, and so overcome blind conflict. **( Response)**
2. I exhort the international community to make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace in Syria without further delay, a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the Syrian people. **(Response)**
3. May no effort be spared in guaranteeing humanitarian assistance to those wounded by this terrible conflict. May humanitarian workers, charged with the task of alleviating the suffering of the Syrian people, be granted access to provide the necessary aid. **(Response)**
4. All men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace. I make a forceful and urgent call to the entire Catholic Church, to every Christian of other confessions, as well as to followers of every religion and to brothers and sisters who do not believe. Peace is a good which overcomes every barrier, because it belongs to all of humanity! **(Response)**
5. It is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace. May the plea for peace rise up and touch the heart of everyone so that they may lay down their weapons and let themselves by led by the desire for peace. **(Response)**

 **Time of Quiet Reflection**

**Leader:** Pope Francis has asked us to pray to *Mary, Queen of Peace*, to help us overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of peace. Let us offer now our prayers and petitions for peace. **The response will be**: **Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!**

**Prayers of Intercession:**

**Closing Prayer: Prayer for Peace in Syria**

(From the prayer of Pope Francis and the USCCCB)

God of compassion, hear the cries of the people of Syria.

Bring healing to those suffering from the violence, and comfort to those who mourn.

Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms and protect those committed to peace.

Mary, Queen of Peace, and our Mother, help us to respond to violence, conflict and war

with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love.

Help us to overcome this most difficult moment

and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation

an authentic culture of encounter and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Amen.

**Closing Song: World Peace Prayer**

---AMSSND JPIC OFFICE--