



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

We join in the Spirit of Assisi, recalling that on October 27, 1986, Pope John Paul II invited Christian leaders and leaders of world religions to fast and pray for peace.

**INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHRISTIANS' PRAYER
RECITED AFTER THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD
IN THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. RUFINO**

1. That the love of Christ may dwell in our hearts through the power of his cleansing and pardoning Holy Spirit. May it enable us to overcome the spirit of selfishness and dissension and prepare us to make the sacrifices which peace requires; may it create peace with ourselves and with others, so that we may become peacemakers according to God's will.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Grant, Lord God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of us here present, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatred cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. We pray for a total commitment on the part of each Church, and of all together, for peace in the world, for justice and the integrity of creation, for the rights of the weakest, the needs of the unemployed; may we stand firm together against violence, torture, the abuse of power and the arms race.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, grant us to look with your eyes of compassion on the long travail of humankind; the wars, the hungry millions, the countless refugees, the national disasters, the cruel and needless death, our inhumanity to one another, the heartbreak and hopelessness of so many lives.

Hasten the coming of that time when the nations shall be at peace and people shall live free from fear and want and there shall be no more pain or tears in the security of your will and the assurance of your love, shown us in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all. Amen.

3. We pray as Christians for a great readiness to know and appreciate the values of other religions and to work with them and all men and women of good will, for the sake of understanding and practical cooperation between all nations and communities.



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

4. We pray for the unity of Christians according to the will of Christ; may divisions and rivalries among us be overcome so that, living in communion, we may everywhere be a sign of the unity God wills for the human family and that we may be more effectively committed to the peace and complete well-being of humanity.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

God our Father, Goodness beyond all goodness, beauty beyond all beauty, in you is peace and tranquility and harmony; reconcile your servants who are divided from one another, grant us your unifying Spirit and make us one. May we become spiritually one by the embrace of charity and the bond of affection; one among ourselves, and one with others; one in the peace which comes from you and gives harmony to all things; one in the grace and mercy and tenderness of your Beloved Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit is God living and reigning for ever and ever. Amen.

5. We pray *for the peoples of Asia* as they struggle for justice, peace and an end to wars in face of situations of desperate poverty and yet with great hopes for a new society in which human rights are carefully respected, looking for adequate ways of development, seeking to preserve their ancient and noble cultures as the context of a human existence, and as a gift to the whole human family; as Christians especially do we pray for that land sanctified by Our Lord's footsteps, that it may become the crossroads of peace and fraternity.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Lord God, we thank you for the glorious opportunities to build new societies of peace, justice and love to praise and glorify you. Help us, we pray, to stand up with courage, to work with love and to live in hope. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

6. We pray *for Africa* with all its richness of spirit, that its peoples may be strengthened as they build up their own nations and work for peace and

justice: may they be delivered from the terrors of famine and drought, of disease, of racism, and of discouragement.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

God our Father, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. We pray for the nations and *peoples of Latin America*: who thirst for justice and peace, longing for fuller self-determination, striving against oppression and unjust economic and social conditions. and the worst kinds of poverty yet discovering your ways of salvation in a preferential love for the poor and in the search for a just peace.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who created us in your own image; grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression, and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it by the maintenance of justice in our communities and among nations, to the glory of your Holy Name: through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

8. We pray *for Europe*, faced with the division of East and West; where the search for peace takes on new urgency and is complicated by the arms race and the nuclear threat, by problems of injustice, by the plight of refugees, and by the selfishness of consumer societies.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to

love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

9. We pray for the peoples of *the North American continent* that they may be renewed in the Christian ideals of justice and freedom, so that they may be ever more aware of their responsibilities in the family of nations and that they may give themselves to the needs of others with respect for their aspirations and compassion for their needs, and themselves ever be just stewards of what has been entrusted to them.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, you have made all peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and peace. Give to us a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

10. We pray for the *peoples of Oceania* in their concern to preserve their cultures and to keep their lands and their seas free from war and to give thanks to God for the wonders of his creation, may they be strengthened to keep true values alive and to seek, in a happy and peaceful spirit, opportunity and justice for all.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

11. We pray that all men and women may firmly exclude violence as a solution to personal, community and world problems, that leaders and government may reject whatever could lead to nuclear conflict, seeking instead human understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and reconciliation.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love; so mightily

spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

12. We pray that we and all our fellow human beings may grow in respect for human dignity and its inalienable rights; may we use our own liberty with scrupulous care not to infringe the rights of others, having a practical concern for their needs and facing conflicts with mutual respect and understanding.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth not to confront one another with hatred or bitterness but to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

13. We pray for the United Nations and other international organizations which serve peace and understanding, that they may be strong in helping settle differences fairly, with respect for the rights of people, and without recourse to violence; we pray for political leaders who negotiate peace, that they may learn to trust each other and that the agreements they achieve may be respected. We pray for the super-powers that they may be aware of the value and responsibility of each nation in the family of nations and that they may turn from the paths that could lead to war.

Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Lord, help with your wisdom leaders of countries everywhere and those who work for international understanding that with your help they may promote in all the earth lasting peace, progress in society and religious liberty. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

14. As Christians we repent of our faults which have injured peace, which have hurt others and provoked discord. We beg God's pardon for the pride, jealousy, ambition, and greed which have led us at times to forsake our calling as peace-makers. In penitence we offer ourselves anew for God's loving purpose of reconciliation, peace and communion in the whole human family.

Brief silence.



Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace; so clothe us in your Spirit, that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honour of your Holy Name. Amen.

15. We pray to Jesus Christ our Lord that by his Holy Spirit he may make us more faithful to him that we might discern how we can work and act to bring about peace wherever we are and among those for whom we are responsible promoting reconciliation, justice, truth and mutual respect, so that the human family may be delivered from the paralyzing threats of war and destruction and pursue the ways of life in harmony and with hope. Brief silence.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory; behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty and prejudice and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfilment of their humanity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.