

Litany for an End to Conflicts

Leader: Christ, Prince of Peace, we hear the sounds of war and violence in so many countries; we see the poverty and underdevelopment that feeds so many of these conflicts. As members of your Church, in fidelity with the mission of peace and justice you have called us to, we raise our voices to you in prayer:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the children of Abraham, the Jewish and Muslim communities in the Middle East, that the decades of bloodshed may finally end with a just peace accord that recognizes the rights of both the Palestinians and the Israelis:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people of Lebanon, that a just order is restored to their country, and hatreds and animosities will cease:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people of Iraq, that the bloodshed ends and the Iraqi people be able to rebuild their country, restore their communities and heal divisions between Suni and Shiites:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people of Pakistan, that their government be dedicated to non-violent solutions within and with its neighboring states:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For those in Afghanistan, that their country cease to be a battleground and ends its economic dependence on illegal drug production:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For those in Sri Lanka, that the decades of conflict and violence between different factions cease:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people of Myanmar, that their government may restore human rights and refrain from violent repression:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For those survivors of the Genocide in Darfur, that the conflict between rebel groups and Sudanese Government-sponsored militias ends with help from the international community:

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Peace cannot be a mere word or a vain aspiration. Peace is a commitment and a manner of life which demands that the legitimate aspirations of all should be satisfied, such as access to food, water and energy, to medicine and technology, or indeed the monitoring of climate change.

- Pope Benedict XVI, 2008



All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa, that human dignity and human rights prevail over sectarian violence and civil strife:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For all the people in the African Great Lakes region, that the peace processes begun in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya blossom into better living conditions and adequate social structures:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For people caught in the tensions in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and other countries throughout Africa:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people in Kosovo and in all of the Balkan countries, that the fragile peace agreements reached in these divided areas may be strengthened by roots of social justice:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace.

Leader: For the people of Georgia, that their sovereignty is respected and their peace be restored:

All: Hear, O Lord, and grant your children justice and peace. *Amen*

(For more resources on IDP, visit the UN International Day of Peace web site <http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>, background on IDP at: <http://internationaldayofpeace.org/about/background.html>)

*“The common good
requires peace”*

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1909



Reflections from Pope Benedict

The following excerpts are from Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January, 2008. Here the Pope identifies those places mentioned in the litany. While new conflicts continue to emerge, Christians everywhere are called to be peace builders through prayer, solidarity and action.

“Peace is a commitment and a manner of life which demands that the legitimate aspirations of all should be satisfied, such as access to food, water and energy, to medicine and technology, or indeed the monitoring of climate change.” -Pope Benedict

The international community continues to be deeply concerned about the **Middle East**. . . I appeal once more to the Israelis and the Palestinians to concentrate their energies on peace. I invite the international community to give strong support to these two peoples and to understand their respective sufferings and fears. #4

Who can remain unmoved by the plight of **Lebanon**, amid its trials and all the violence that continues to shake that beloved country? #4

In **Iraq** too, reconciliation is urgently needed as well as an end to conflict. #4

Pakistan has suffered from serious violence in recent months. I hope that all political and social forces will commit themselves to building a peaceful society, respectful of the rights of all. #5

In **Afghanistan**, in addition to violence, there are other serious social problems, such as the production of drugs; greater support should be given to efforts for development, and even more intensive work is required in order to build a serene future. #5

In **Sri Lanka** it is no longer possible to postpone further the decisive efforts needed to remedy the immense sufferings caused by the continuing conflict. #5

And I ask the Lord to grant that in **Myanmar**, with the support of the international community, a season of dialogue between the Government and the opposition will begin, ensuring true respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. #5

Turning now to **Africa**, I should like first of all to reiterate my deep anguish, on observing that hope seems almost vanquished by the menacing sequence of hunger and death that is unfolding in **Darfur**. #6

The peace process in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** is encountering strong resistance in the vicinity of the Great Lakes, especially in the Eastern regions, while Somalia, particularly Mogadishu, continues to be afflicted by violence and poverty. I appeal to the parties in conflict to cease their military operations, to

facilitate the movement of humanitarian aid and to respect civilians. #6

Kenya has experienced an abrupt outbreak of violence. #6

I rejoice at the progress that has been made in various countries of the **Balkan region**, and I express once again the hope that the definitive status of **Kosovo** will take account of the legitimate claims of the parties involved and will guarantee security and respect for the rights of all the inhabitants of this land, so that the spectre of violence will be definitively removed. #7

From this rapid overview it appears clearly that the security and stability of the world are still fragile. God's name is a name of justice, it represents an urgent appeal for peace. #8

This realization could help, among other things, to give direction to initiatives for intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. These ever increasing initiatives can foster cooperation on matters of mutual interest, such as the dignity of the human person, the search for the common good, peace-building and development. #9

Peace cannot be a mere word or a vain aspiration. Peace is a commitment and a manner of life which demands that the legitimate aspirations of all should be satisfied, such as access to food, water and energy, to medicine and technology, or indeed the monitoring of climate change. Only in this way can we build the future of humanity; only in this way can we facilitate an integral development valid for today and tomorrow.

With a particularly felicitous expression, Pope Paul VI stressed forty years ago in his Encyclical Letter *Populorum Progressio*, that “development is the new name for peace”. Hence, in order to consolidate peace, the positive macroeconomic results being achieved by many developing countries must be supported by effective social policies and by the implementation of aid commitments by rich countries. #12

