



Pax Christi Michigan

Community Prayer

A foundational approach embraced by Pax Christi is the method of **“Prayer, Study, Action.”** In his letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul says we should “pray without ceasing.” Charles de Foucauld was impressed with the sincerity of Muslims praying five times each day, and it deepened his own faith. And, Emmanuel Charles McCarthy says compellingly, “[Brazilian Bishop] Dom Helder Camara rises each morning at 2:00 A.M. to pray. Dorothy Day has probably written as much on prayer in her column in the *Catholic Worker* as on any other subject. Yet, despite the example and unequivocal exhortations of the best of the best, the Catholic peace movement does not seem to possess a prayer life consistent with the gravity of the evil it is confronting. It is almost as if it were trying to carry on its war against the powers of darkness with one of its most potent weapons in mothballs.”

Accordingly, we invite members of Pax Christi Michigan to join us by reciting a prayer for each day of the week on a continual basis. Thus, the prayers of our community of peacemakers may together “rise like incense” in the words of Psalm 141.

We encourage you to recite the daily prayers privately, and as opportunities arise, to do so communally in the midst of meetings, peace actions, or in support of others involved in specific events or actions.

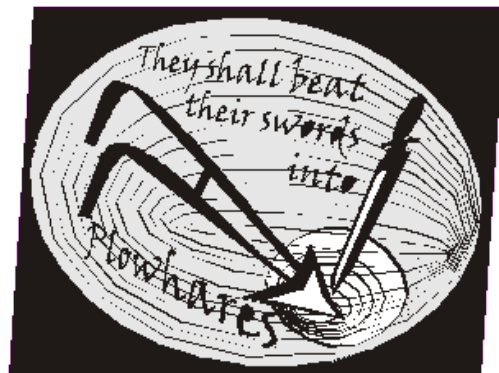


DAILY – Pax Christi USA Peacemaking Prayer

O God, we believe that peacemaking means planting the seeds,
even though we may never see the flower,

And it means never losing sight of the vision promised
by you.

We hold fast to your word that one day nations will beat
their “swords into plowshares.”



May we, as peacemakers, stake our lives on that promise, and help to fulfil the vision.
We ask this through your life-giving Spirit. Amen.

SUNDAY – We Believe

O God, we/I believe in you, the creator and source of all being;
in Jesus the Christ, your human incarnation;
and, in your Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.

We/I believe you are one God, and that in infinite love, you created the cosmos
and all things visible and invisible.

Jesus, we/I believe that, to reveal the depth of Divine love, you taught us to
welcome and care for the poor and the stranger;
to provide food for the hungry and drink for the thirsty;
to visit those who are sick or in prison;
to care for the Earth and all living beings;
in all matters to be just, merciful and forgiving;
to respond nonviolently even in the face of suffering;
and, to love even those who would be enemies.

Jesus, in all of your life, you made known to us the compassion of God.

Loving God, we/I believe that
when Jesus was crucified,
died and was buried,
He was raised by you on the
third day.

Holy Spirit of God, we/I
believe you are intimately
present with us, and that you
have spoken through wise
and holy people of all races
and creeds, and throughout
all the ages.

Creator God, we/I believe
Your Kin-dom has no end,
and that no one has seen,
heard or imagined what you,
in infinite love, have prepared
for us in the world to come.

Amen.



MONDAY – The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:12)

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, ²Jesus began to teach them:

³"Blessed are you who are poor in spirit: the kin-dom of heaven is yours.

⁴Blessed are you who are mourning: you will be consoled.

⁵Blessed are you who are gentle: you will inherit the land.

⁶Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for justice: you will have your fill.

⁷Blessed are you who show mercy to others: you will be shown mercy.

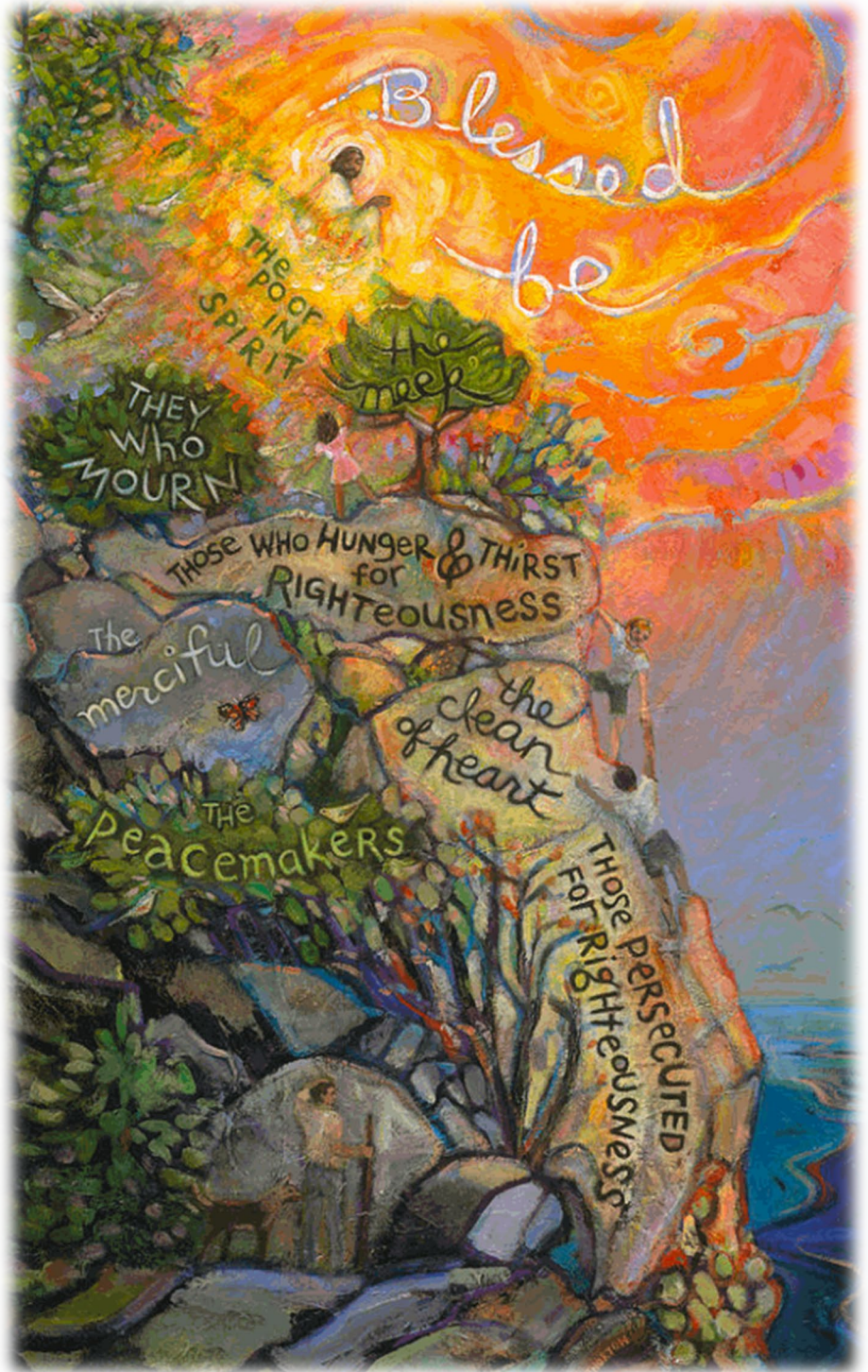
⁸Blessed are you whose hearts are clean: you will see God.

⁹Blessed are you who work for peace: you will be called the sons and daughters of God.

¹⁰Blessed are you who are persecuted because of your struggle for justice: the kin-dom of heaven is yours.

¹¹You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

¹²Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way."



TUESDAY – Vow of Nonviolence

Recognizing the violence in my own heart, yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, I vow for one year to practice the nonviolence of Jesus who taught us in the Sermon on the Mount:

“Blessed are you who are peacemakers, for you shall be called the sons and daughters of God...You have learned how it was said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy’; but I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. In this way, you will be daughters and sons of your Creator in heaven.”

Before God the Creator and the Sanctifying Spirit, I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus:

- by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life;
- by accepting suffering rather than inflicting it;
- by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence;
- by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart;
- by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live;
- by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth.

God, I trust in your sustaining love and believe that just as you gave me the grace and desire to offer this, so you will also bestow abundant grace to fulfill it.



WEDNESDAY – A Prayer of Intercession to St. Joseph

St. Joseph ...

Who believed in Mary's word, make us a church that listens to women's experience and their testimony of the action of the Spirit in their lives;

Who raised your Son to be a peacemaker, make us a church of nonviolent resistance to war;

Who knew the joys of craftsmanship and the fatigue of work, make us a church that teaches the dignity of labor and that joins in the workers' struggle for just wages and decent conditions;

Who listened to the voice of a dream, make us a church of deep contemplation, cautious of superficial answers, open to God's surprises;

Who was a refugee, make us a church that is a home to the wanderer, shelter to the terrorized, have to those in flight from violence and war;

Who was a member of a most unconventional family, make us a church of welcome to all families in their wonderful diversity;

Who taught Jesus the wisdom of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, make us willing disciples of Earth's wisdom, and loving kin of all creation.

Amen.



THURSDAY – Interfaith Prayer for Peace *(Derived from Various Faith Traditions)*

O God, make us instruments of your peace.

You are the source of life, truth and wisdom, praised be your name forever.

We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.

You are the One who does not hesitate to respond to our call.

You are the cornerstone of compassion.

We pray to you to eradicate all the misery in the world.

May true gentleness of heart bring peace among all peoples of the world.

You created us and made us into tribes and nations that we may know each other, and not despise each other.

May nations seek the way of peace together.



May nations never again lift up the sword toward other nations, nor learn war anymore.
No weapon can be superior to nonviolence and love.

O God, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For we know that through the way of love, we attain you.

Lead us from darkness to light, from death to immortality.

Give to us: understanding that puts an end to strife; mercy that quenches hatred; and, forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.

Amen.

FRIDAY – Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

O God, 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, and where there is
sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I
may never seek, so much to
be 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.



SATURDAY – Prayer to Mary, Queen of Peace and
A Modern-Day Hail Mary



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 that God has made.

Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world.

Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace

Give us a sense of the fullness of God in our own lives.

Because Jesus was with you, all women are full of graces

Too long denied, too long undeveloped.

Blessed are you as a woman.

Without you, the Incarnation would never have been possible.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us so that Jesus may be seen

In the women of our day

Now and for all eternity.

Amen.

