

## **Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace**

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years  
to resolve our conflicts by our own powers  
and by the force of our arms.  
How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced;  
how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered,  
how many hopes have been buried.  
But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid!  
Grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace.  
Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say:  
"Never again war! Never again violence!"  
"With war and violence everything is lost!"  
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love,  
you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.  
Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace;  
enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.  
Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us  
to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace,  
our trepidation into confident trust,  
and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope,  
so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.  
In this way may peace triumph at last,  
and may the words of "division", "hatred" and "war"  
be banished from the heart of every man and woman.  
Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands.  
Renew our hearts and minds,  
so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother and sister",  
and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

## Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, 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

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

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

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Amen.