

Catholic Bible Institute – Sept. 7, 2013 – Opening Prayer

Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis (“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” – Sebastian Temple)

First Reading (from the *Angelus* Address of Pope Francis, of Sept. 1, 2013)

...[D]ear 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! Never again war! Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected.

There are so many conflicts in this world which cause me great suffering and worry, but in these days my heart is deeply wounded in particular by what is happening in Syria and anguished by the dramatic developments which are looming.

I appeal strongly for peace, an appeal which arises from the deep within me. How much suffering, how much devastation, how much pain has the use of arms carried in its wake in that martyred country, especially among civilians and the unarmed! I think of many children will not see the light of the future! With utmost firmness I condemn the use of chemical weapons: I tell you that those terrible images from recent days are burned into my mind and heart. There is a judgment of God and of history upon our actions which are inescapable! Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence.

(http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/angelus/2013/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20130901_en.html)

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34:12-16, 18-23)

All: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Women: Come, children, listen to me; / I will teach you fear of the LORD.

Who is the person who delights in life, / who loves to see the good days?

Keep your tongue from evil, / your lips from speaking lies.

All: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Men: Turn from evil and do good; / seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are directed toward the righteous / and his ears toward their cry.

The righteous cry out, the LORD hears / and he rescues them from all their afflictions.

All: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Women: The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, / saves those whose spirit is crushed.

Many are the troubles of the righteous, / but the LORD delivers him from them all.

He watches over all his bones; / not one of them shall be broken.

All: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Women: Evil will slay the wicked; / those who hate the righteous are condemned.

The LORD is the redeemer of the souls of his servants; /
and none are condemned who take refuge in him.

R: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Gospel Reading (Mark 12:28-34)

Pause for silent reflection

Intercessions (adapted from Pope Francis' *Angelus* of Sept. 1)

May each party in the Syrian conflict listen to the voice of their own conscience, not to close themselves in solely on their own interests, but rather to look at each other as brothers and decisively and courageously to follow the path of encounter and negotiation, and so overcome blind conflict.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

May the international community make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace in that country without further delay – a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

May no effort be spared in guaranteeing humanitarian assistance to those wounded by this terrible conflict, in particular those forced to flee and the many refugees in nearby countries.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

May humanitarian workers, charged with the task of alleviating the sufferings of these people, be granted access so as to provide the necessary aid.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

May the plea for peace rise up and touch the heart of everyone so that they may lay down their weapons and be let themselves be led by the desire for peace.
We pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

May the Mary, Queen of Peace, 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 pray to the Lord... **All: Lord, send us Your Peace.**

Our Father

Collect Prayer

God of Compassion, hear the cries of the people of Syria,
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
Bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
Strengthen Syria's neighbors in their care and welcome for refugees,
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
And protect those committed to peace.

God of Hope, inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies,
Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,
And give us hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.

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

(<http://uscgb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/prayer-for-peace-in-syria.cfm>)



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September 5, 2013

Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in Syria: September 7, 2013

Dear Brothers in the Lord,

As people of faith and conscience, we have all been shocked and horrified by the inhuman acts of brutality and violence taking place in Syria. The palpable sorrow of mothers and fathers grieving the seemingly senseless loss of their children and loved ones has deeply affected me and has overtaken my thoughts and prayers. As we watch television, follow twitter and listen to the radio we bear witness to the evil, hate and objectification that takes place in our world.

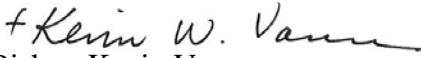
As Catholics we are called to share the peace of Christ in our world and pray for the fulfillment of his mission on earth. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has called for a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in Syria, the Middle East, and the world to be held on September 7th, the vigil of the birth of Mary, Queen of Peace. The Holy Father reminds us that "peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected" and that "all men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace."

As our political leaders contemplate military action, it is particularly appropriate and urgent that we embrace the Holy Father's call to pray and fast on September 7 for a peaceful end to the conflict in Syria and to violent conflicts everywhere. Pope Francis has exhorted "the international community to make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace "...a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people."

Please encourage your parishioners and all people of goodwill to join together in witnessing the hope we have in our hearts for peace for the Syrian people. May our prayers, fasting, and advocacy move our nation to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Syria; and may Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us and the people of Syria.

Thank you for your kind attention to this urgent appeal of our Holy Father.

Sincerely in Christ,


Bishop Kevin Vann

U.S. Bishops' Statement on Day of Prayer for Peace in Syria

Washington, D.C., September 3, 2013

Pope Francis has called for a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in Syria, the Middle East, and the world to be held on **September 7, 2013**, the vigil of the birth of Mary, Queen of Peace. The Holy Father reminds us that “peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected” and that “all men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace.”

We are anguished by the terrible suffering of the Syrian people and again affirm the need for dialogue and negotiation to resolve this conflict that has wrought so much devastation. The use of chemical weapons is particularly abhorrent and we urgently pray for the victims of such atrocities and for their loved ones. And we applaud the work done by those bringing humanitarian aid to people affected by this crisis and pray for their efforts to ease the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

As our nation's leaders contemplate military action, it is particularly appropriate and urgent that we in the United States embrace the Holy Father's call to pray and fast on September 7 for a peaceful end to the conflict in Syria and to violent conflicts everywhere. Pope Francis has exhorted “the international community to make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace, ... a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people.”

Last Friday, our Conference of Bishops reaffirmed an earlier message of the Holy Father “that the path of dialogue and negotiation between all components of Syrian society, with the support of the international community, is the only option to put an end to the conflict.” We urged “the United States to work with other governments to obtain a ceasefire, initiate serious negotiations, provide impartial and neutral humanitarian assistance, and encourage building an inclusive society in Syria that protects the rights of all its citizens, including Christians and other minorities.”

We ask all U.S. Catholics and people of goodwill to join us in witnessing to the hope we have in our hearts for peace for the Syrian people. May our prayers, fasting, and advocacy move our nation to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Syria. And may Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us and the people of Syria.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan
President, United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops

Bishop Richard E. Pates
Chair, Committee on International
Justice and Peace, USCCB

Catholic Bible Institute – Sept. 7, 2013 – Closing Prayer

CALL TO PRAYER:

Leader: In the name of our God who shares divinity with us,
in the name of our God who shares humanity with us,
in the name of our God who unsettles and inspires us,
let us give praise and thanks!

ALL: *Amen!* (*More Than Words, Janet Schaffran and Pat Kozak, p. 38*)

READING: Mark 1:9-11

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. (*pause*)

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (*pause*) The Gospel of the Lord.

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

(Pause for silent reflection on the reading.)

RESPONSE: Psalm 117

ALL: *Give thanks, for the Lord is good, / God's love is for ever!*

Men: *Praise! Give glory to God! / Nations, peoples, give glory!*

Women: *Strong the love embracing us. / Faithful the Lord for ever.*

ALL: *Hallelujah!*

(Pause and silently be present to the faithful God who is embracing you/us this day.)

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

ALL: *God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through obedience. Inscribe your love in our hearts, so that we may not stray from you, but may remain your faithful people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

BLESSING:

Leader: May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: *Amen.*

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

ALL: *May the name of the Lord be praised!*

CLOSING SONG: Prayer of St. Francis

"With you I am well pleased!"

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Sebastian Temple

Verses 1, 2, 4



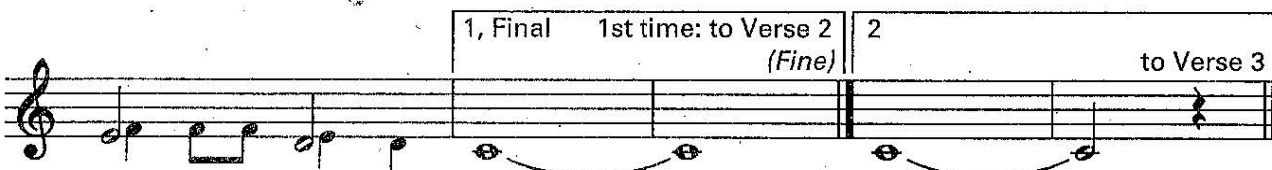
1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there is ha-tred,
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there's de-spair in
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It is in par-don-



1. let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju -
 2. life, let me bring hope. _____ Where there is dark-ness
 4. ing that we are par-doned, _____ In giv-ing of our -



1. ry, your par-don, Lord, And where there's doubt, true
 2. _____ on - ly light, And where there's sad - ness
 4. selves that we re - ceive, And in dy - ing that we're



1. faith in you. 2. joy.
 2. ev - er
 4. born to e - ter - nal life.

Verse 3



3. O Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



3. soled, as to con-sole, To be un-der-stood, as to un-der-



3. stand, To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.