

# **PRAYING FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD of TODAY**

**Benedict XVI Asks Prayers for Middle East  
Italy, JULY 16, 2006**

**After praying the Angelus today with some 5,000 faithful in the field of Les Combes in the Aosta Valley, the Pope said: “In recent days the news from the Holy Land is a reason for new and grave concern for all, in particular because of the spread of warlike actions also in Lebanon, and because of the numerous victims among the civilian population.”**

**“At the origin of these cruel oppositions there are, sadly, objective situations of violation of law and justice,” he noted.**

**“But neither terrorist acts nor reprisals, especially when they entail tragic consequences for the civilian population, can be justified,” he said. “By such paths, as bitter experience shows, positive results are not achieved.”**

**The Holy Father asked for peace through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.**

**Benedict XVI described Mount Carmel, a few kilometers from Lebanon, as a holy mount that “dominates the Israeli city of Haifa, the latter also recently hit.”**

**“Let us pray to Mary, Queen of Peace, to implore from God the fundamental gift of concord, bringing political leaders back to the path of reason, and opening new possibilities of dialogue and agreement,” he exhorted.**

**He concluded by inviting local Churches “to raise special prayers for peace in the Holy Land and in the whole of the Middle East.”**



**Lord Jesus, You said,**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.”**

**Lord, make us the means of Your peace and healing, forgiveness and joy in our world.**



**We pause and recall that You are our God and we are Your people, Your daughters and sons, created in Your image and called to dwell in Your house. You have pitched Your tent among us and will never leave us orphans.**

**Glory to You, Source of All Being.**

**Glory to You, Eternal Word.**

**Glory to You, Holy Inspirer and Life-Giver.**



**At this time we would ask you to stand. Facing the East, we will pray to the Lord for peace for the peoples of that particular area of the world while saying the following:**

**To the East: Lord, grant them peace.  
Lord, grant them peace.  
Lord, grant them Your peace, we beg You.**

**Then to the West:  
Then to the South:  
Then to the North:**



**For a very long time  
two brothers have been at war with each other  
and have made the heart of their father sad.**

**One is the Jewish people, born of Isaac;  
The other, the Arabs, born of Ishmael.  
Both are the sons of Abraham.**

**You also, Lord Jesus,  
are a son of Abraham!**

**You Who by Your cross have destroyed hatred  
and established the peace of God,  
reconcile Your brothers  
so that the people born of Abraham  
may finally be people of peace.**

**And at the time foreseen according to Your mercy,  
let them recognize You  
as their Savior and their Brother.**

**–Biblical Prayers by Lucien Deiss**

### **Psalm 85**

**The Lord speaks of peace to His people.  
I will hear what God proclaims;  
The Lord – for He proclaims peace.  
Near indeed is His salvation to those who fear Him,  
Glory dwelling in our land.  
Justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from the heaven.  
The Lord Himself shall give His benefits.  
Justice shall walk before Him,  
and salvation along the way of His steps.  
The Lord speaks of peace to His people.**

**Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,  
Who consoles us in all our afflictions.**

**–2 Corinthians 1: 3–4**

### **James 4: 1–10**

**Where do the conflicts and disputes among you originate? Is it not your inner cravings that make war within your members? What you desire you do not obtain and so you resort to murder. You envy and you cannot acquire, so you quarrel and fight. You do not obtain because you do not ask. You ask and you do not receive because you ask wrongly, with a view of squandering what you receive on your pleasures. O you unfaithful ones, are you not aware that love of the world is enmity to God? A man is marked out as God's enemy if he chooses to be the world's friend. God resists the proud but bestows His favor on the lowly. Therefore submit to God; resist the devil and he will take flight. Draw close to God and God will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands; purify your hearts. Begin to lament, to mourn and to weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into sorrow. Be humble in the sight of the Lord and He will raise you on high.**

### **John 15: 9 – 12**

**As the Father has loved Me,  
so I have loved you.**

**Live on in My love.**

**You will live in My love**

**if you keep My commandments.**

**This is My commandment:**

**Love one another**

**as I have loved you.**

### **Reflection: Spirituality of the Beatitudes**

**–Michael Crosby, OFM Cap**

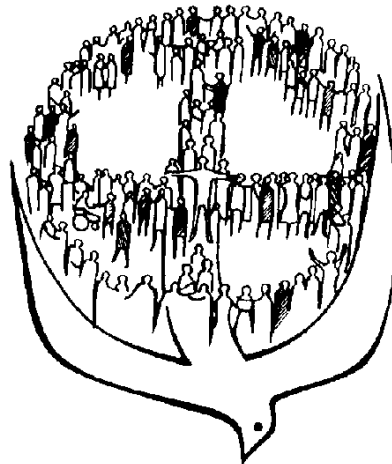
**If you and I are on an island and you have a loaf of bread, you will never sleep. To protect any form of our power, possessions, or prestige, to insure our continued consumerism and vested interests, we have to defend ourselves from the other who must be considered hostile to us. This applies to us on all levels; the individual, the interpersonal, and the infrastructural.**

**The need to defend our land arrangements, even to the degree of going to war, helps us to understand those dynamics that lead to war itself. Whenever power, possessions, or prestige are threatened or called into question, the first reaction is always defensiveness. If that attitude controls the members of the particular social arrangement instead of inviting them to a conversation, a process will have begun that can lead to actual violence. This violence can be verbal, attitudinal, or even military war itself.**

According to Ralph K. White, (Nobody Wanted War), every war has underlying and precipitating causes and all parties in conflict tend to justify their cause for going to and remaining at war by appealing to these attitudes:

1. Perceive the opponent as the diabolical enemy.
2. A virile self-image provides the weapons.
3. Each side views themselves as peace-loving, rational, orderly and just.
4. Selective inattention to history and the facts.
5. A lack of empathy of one side for the other.
6. An irrational interpretation of reality.

Chaos and violence exist in fact and possibility not only among nations. They can be found within many “isms”: among sexes and races, among producers and consumers, gays and straights, doctors and nurses, clerics and lay and on and on. All parties can be helped to peace by understanding how easily they can be controlled by the six underlying attitudes. Understanding what leads to war can make it easier to structure peace by avoiding these forms of underlying potential violence.



## Intercessions

Response: *Dona nobis pacem or Lord, give us peace.*

That You, O God, will bring a just and lasting peace to our warring world, we pray:

That our brothers and sisters suffering from the ravages of war will be kept safely in Your care, O God, we pray:

That the leaders of the nations of the world will use diplomacy and justice as a means in helping conflicts to cease, we pray:

That all who have died, soldiers and civilians, will enjoy Your presence and peace, O God, we pray:

That the senselessness of the bloodshed and the loss of life, infrastructure, jobs and homes will make all humanity realize that war never is a solution, we pray:

**That we may learn that might does not make right; that bombs and missiles, armies and other war machinery does not give any country the right to “bully” another, we pray:**

**That we may come to realize the reality that we really are brothers and sisters, daughters and sons of You, our loving Father Who desires that we live in peace, we pray:**

### **Prayer of Peace**

**Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.**

**Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.  
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.**

**Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.  
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.  
Peace Prayer, David Haas, 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.**

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**Lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts.  
Let peace fill our world.  
Let peace fill our universe.  
- Upanishads, Satish Kumar**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to be educators of the Lord's peace.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**