

April 11, 2003

## **A Time of War and a Time For Peace**

*Liturgical Resources during a time of International Crisis for the Diocese of Buffalo*

Preface: No one wants violence. No one desires war. Yet at this time in the history of our world we find ourselves in the midst of military confrontation with the potential for further escalation of international bitterness and force.

As Christians, especially within the Catholic Tradition, we have a responsibility to address the reality of war and it's devastation with a movement for peace and reconciliation among the nations. This movement is our priority. Our priority begins for us with prayer.

We gather to pray not for the political victory of one over another, nor to canonize political ideologies or manners of governance. We gather not to recognize the righteous from the unrighteous. We gather trusting in God that conflict may cease, life may be preserved, and that reconciliation among the nations may be the victor.

We pray as well that tyranny may not triumph. But at the same time we beg for forgiveness for the evil that emerges from the depths of human heart. We ask forgiveness from God for the ludicrousness of having to enter military confrontation in order to re-attain order. We beg forgiveness from God for global or nationalistic systems that dehumanize and demoralize and that beget a rift between peoples which is fostered by material inequalities.

The emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical costs of war are so insurmountable, and their effects so indelible. Thus, we pray for all those who are effected by war, both military and civilian populations. We pray for those who are injured in battle or in collateral mishaps. We pray for those who have died: those who met their demise because of misguided agendas that took advantage of the ideological zeal of youth; those whose lives were offered because they understood the importance of defending the integrity of a just world.

We pray for no other greater reason than to say to God: "Your Will Be Done" and not ours. According to our belief God's will is rooted in Peace, as the psalmist says: "I will hear what the Lord has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people and his friends." (Ps. 84:9 Grail Translation).

May our prayers, through this very difficult time in history, reach the heavens and pierce the human heart with the words of Pope Paul VI: "War No More, No More War."

Texts for the Eucharist:

Sacramentary: In Time of War or Civil Disturbance, page 904  
For Peace and Justice, page 902  
For the Progress of Peoples, page 901

For Civil Needs, page 899

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time (Alternate Opening Prayer)

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Alternate Opening Prayer)

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Alternate Opening Prayer)

Original Opening Prayers:

For those in combat: Lord God, protector of all,  
watch over those in military service,  
especially those who are on  
the front line of battle,  
whose lives are in jeopardy.  
When they are fearful,  
give them confidence.  
When they are anxious,  
steady their hearts.  
When they are confused,  
grant them sound judgment & wisdom.  
Restore them to their families,  
and to that place where peace is postured.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

At a moment of disaster:

We turn our shock and dismay to you , O God.  
May the devastation which has insulted your created order,  
lead us not to retaliation but to resolution  
grounded in sound judgment.  
Assist us as we face this devastation.  
Comfort our souls.  
Direct these moments so that our reactions  
may bring order out of this chaos,  
and hope from its despair.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

During a time of decisive action:

O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
God of Jesus, who is the Christ,  
at this moment in time  
as decisions are being made which will effect  
the welfare of your people and this world,  
send for your Holy Spirit of truth and right judgment.

May this spirit direct those making crucial decisions.  
May your spirit shape the thoughts of those  
making strategies. Let tactical resourcefulness be used to  
bring about a substantial and long lasting peace.  
We make this prayer through our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

For civilians in a war torn area:

God of all peoples,  
hear our prayers as we present to you those whose lives  
have been compromised due to the tragedy of war,  
especially the weak and the frail,  
the sick and the invalid,  
the mentally and physically maimed.  
Keep us conscious of their presence  
and assist those who come in contact with these little ones  
in bringing consolation and calm.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

For accompanying Mass texts to the above original Opening Prayers,  
(i.e.: Prayer Over the Gifts, Closing Prayer): See the Mass texts listed  
under Sacramentary above

Penitential Rite: Lord Jesus, you came to bring peace to the world,  
but humanity still engages in aggression;  
Lord, Have Mercy

Christ Jesus, your death on the cross redeemed us from  
sin and death, yet humanity still clings to sin and  
perpetuates death, Christ, Have Mercy

Lord Jesus, by your resurrection you have set us free to  
live, yet humanity still shackles others and deflates the  
value of life, Lord Have Mercy

Lord Jesus, you said: "who ever lives by the sword  
dies by the sword," forgive us our propensity towards  
weapons of destruction, Lord Have Mercy

Christ Jesus, you said: "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers & sisters, you do to me;" Forgive us our intolerance towards each other, Christ Have Mercy

Lord Jesus, you said: "My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples," Forgive us our tendency towards prejudice and racial profiling, Lord have Mercy

Come, Lord Jesus, you who are the way, the truth, and the life, Lord Have Mercy

Come Christ Jesus, you who are seated at the right hand of God the Father, Christ Have Mercy

Come Lord Jesus, you who calmed the stormy sea, Lord Have Mercy

Lectionary: For the Evangelization of Peoples #872  
For Persecuted Christians #877  
For Peace and Justice #887  
For Public Needs #882  
For Reconciliation #892  
For Refugees and Exiles #927  
Eucharistic Prayers: Reconciliation II  
For Various Needs and Occasions II  
For Various Needs and Occasions IV

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Opening Song: suggestion - "Where Charity and Love Prevail"  
"God of Day and God of Darkness"  
by Marty Haugen

Antiphon & Psalm:

Antiphon: Empower the Church throughout the world in its life and witness

Psalm: Psalm 25 (RNAB translation)

I wait for you, O LORD;  
I lift up my soul to my God.

In you I trust; do not let me be disgraced;  
do not let my enemies gloat over me.

No one is disgraced who waits for you,  
but only those who lightly break faith.  
Make known to me your ways, LORD; teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

For you I wait all the long day,  
because of your goodness, LORD.  
Remember your compassion and love, O LORD; for they are ages old.  
Remember no more the sins of my youth;  
remember me only in light of your love.

Good and upright is the LORD,  
who shows sinners the way,  
Guides the humble rightly,  
and teaches the humble the way.

All the paths of the LORD are faithful love  
toward those who honor the covenant demands.  
For the sake of your name, LORD, pardon my guilt, though it is great.

Who are those who fear the LORD?  
God shows them the way to choose.  
They live well and prosper,  
and their descendants inherit the land.

The counsel of the LORD belongs to the faithful;  
the covenant instructs them.  
My eyes are ever upon the LORD,  
who frees my feet from the snare.

Look upon me, have pity on me,  
for I am alone and afflicted.  
Relieve the troubles of my heart;  
bring me out of my distress.

Put an end to my affliction and suffering; take away all my sins.  
See how many are my enemies, see how fiercely they hate me.  
Preserve my life and rescue me;  
do not let me be disgraced, for I trust in you.

Let honesty and virtue preserve me;  
I wait for you, O LORD.

Redeem Israel, God, from all its distress!

Glory to the Father.....

Antiphon & Psalm:

Antiphon: Break down the barriers that divide, that united in truth and love,  
we may confess your name

Psalm 34 (RNAB translation)

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
praise shall be always in my mouth.  
My soul will glory in the LORD  
that the poor may hear and be glad.

Magnify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the LORD, who answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy  
and your faces may not blush for shame.  
In my misfortune I called,  
the LORD heard and saved me from all distress.

The angel of the LORD, who encamps with them,  
delivers all who fear God.  
Learn to savor how good the LORD is;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Fear the LORD, you holy ones; nothing is lacking to those who fear him.  
The powerful grow poor and hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.  
Who among you loves life, takes delight in prosperous days?

Keep your tongue from evil, your lips from speaking lies.  
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The LORD has eyes for the just and ears for their cry.  
The LORD'S face is against evildoers  
to wipe out their memory from the earth.  
When the just cry out, the LORD hears  
and rescues them from all distress.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted,  
saves those whose spirit is crushed.  
Many are the troubles of the just, but the LORD delivers from them all.

God watches over all their bones; not a one shall be broken.  
Evil will slay the wicked; those who hate the just are condemned.  
The LORD redeems loyal servants;  
no one is condemned whose refuge is God.

Glory to the Father....

Antiphon & Psalm:

Antiphon: Guide the rulers of the nation,  
move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition,  
and bow to Your sovereign rule

Psalm 71 (RNAB translation)

In you, LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice rescue and deliver me; listen to me and save me!

Be my rock and refuge, my secure stronghold;  
for you are my rock and fortress.  
My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the violent.

You are my hope, Lord; my trust, GOD, from my youth.  
On you I depend since birth;  
from my mother's womb you are my strength;  
my hope in you never wavers.

I have become a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge!  
My mouth shall be filled with your praise, shall sing your glory every day.

Do not cast me aside in my old age;  
as my strength fails, do not forsake me.  
For my enemies speak against me; they watch and plot against me.

They say, "God has abandoned that one.  
Pursue, seize the wretch!  
No one will come to the rescue!"  
God, do not stand far from me; my God, hasten to help me.

Bring to a shameful end those who attack me;  
Cover with contempt and scorn those who seek my ruin.  
I will always hope in you and add to all your praise.

My mouth shall proclaim your just deeds,  
day after day your acts of deliverance, though I cannot number them all.  
I will speak of the mighty works of the Lord;  
O GOD, I will tell of your singular justice.

God, you have taught me from my youth;  
to this day I proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
Now that I am old and gray, do not forsake me, God,  
That I may proclaim your might to all generations yet to come,  
Your power and justice, God, to the highest heaven.  
You have done great things; O God, who is your equal?

You have sent me many bitter afflictions,  
but once more revive me.  
From the watery depths of the earth once more raise me up.  
Restore my honor; turn and comfort me,  
That I may praise you with the lyre for your faithfulness, my God,  
And sing to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel!

My lips will shout for joy as I sing your praise;  
my soul, too, which you have redeemed.  
Yes, my tongue shall recount your justice day by day.  
For those who sought my ruin will have been shamed and disgraced.

Glory to the Father.....

Reading: James 4: 1-3, 7-10

Responsory: Leader: Lead us not down the path of destruction  
ALL: Lead Us Not Down The Path Of Destruction  
Leader: For that which is against your will  
ALL: Is The Path Of Destruction  
Leader: Glory to the Father.....  
ALL: Lead Us Not Down The Path Of Destruction

Gospel Canticle & Antiphon:

Antiphon: Guide our paths into the way of peace.

Morning Prayer - Benedictus  
Evening Prayer - Magnificat

General Intercessions:

Leader: Let us pray that in the midst of conflict and division, that God will turn minds and hearts as we pray:

ALL: May Your Will Be Done, May Your Kingdom Prevail

Reader: Reconcile the rulers of the nations  
especially George Bush, Saddam Hussein, & Kim Jong IL,  
move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition.  
Inspire them to strive for peace, justice, and well-being  
that all your children may dwell secure, we pray to the Lord....

For the betterment of humanity,  
that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among all nations,  
and between the religions, we pray to the Lord....

That the members of the UN Security Council may be given wisdom  
and insight, resolution and forthrightness, we pray to the Lord..

That the weak and the innocent may humble the high and powerful  
so help them see the foolishness in the language and weapons of war,  
we pray to the Lord.....

For those in our lives who long for peace, especially those we  
remember this day....., we pray to the Lord.....

(when necessary: For those injured (pause or names), that they may be  
healed in mind and body, we pray to the Lord...)

(when necessary: For those who have died (pause or names), may they  
now rest in God's peace, and may their families be  
comforted, we pray to the Lord.....)

Leader: May that day come, Lord, when there will be no more violence, no  
more combat, no more aggression but only the peace and unity of  
Your kingdom, where you live forever and ever.

Lord's Prayer

Closing prayer: O God,

you love justice and you establish peace on earth.  
We bring before you the disunity of today's world:  
the absurd violence, and the many wars  
which are breaking the hopes of the peoples of the world;  
militarism and the proliferation of arms,  
which are threatening life on the planet;  
human greed and injustice,  
which breed hatred and strife.  
May your will overrule human willfulness.  
Hold back those who are impulsive and descriptive,  
lest desire for vengeance overwhelms our common welfare.  
Bring peace to earth, through Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace, and Savior of All. Amen

or

see one of the opening original orations or choose from  
the Sacramentary collection as listed above.