

## **Catholic Eucharist to celebrate Spirit of Assisi**

**Introduction:** Whenever Catholics, those in full communion with the Bishop of Rome, gather together to pray, we naturally turn to the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass, to express our fervent longing and insistent plea. We suggest that those who would like to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Day of Prayer for Peace, convoked by Pope John Paul II in October 1986, with a Eucharist, use the Votive Mass for Peace. The Missal offers various prayers and the Lectionary various readings for such a Mass. Below are some suggestions that might be used for the Mass:

**Appropriate songs should be chosen from the liturgical context of each locality.**

**Opening Prayer:** O God, you who call your children peacemakers, help us to work without tiring for that justice without which authentic and lasting peace cannot be guaranteed. As we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Day of Prayer for Peace, convoked by Pope John Paul II, send your Spirit upon us so that we might promote evermore faithfully the values of your Kingdom: peace, justice, mercy, forgiveness, truth and love. Extend to all men and women, and to all creatures, your loving concern. Help us to form a true family, united in harmony and peace. We ask this....

**Suggestions for a Prayer of the Faithful:**

### **Prayer I:**

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, let us prayer to God, who through the Gospel of his Son Jesus, has given us salvation and peace.

Our response is: Hear us, O God

- For the holy Church of God, for Benedict our Pope, for our Ministers General, and for the General Superiors of the Franciscan family, that based on the Gospel they might announce Peace and Good to all. Let us pray together.
- For those who direct nations and for the leaders of world religions, that the Spirit of Assisi might be a constant call to find paths that will unite the peoples of the earth, and that they search for dialogue and work to put an end to all violence. Let us pray together.
- For those who have found in the Gospel of Jesus the path to generous self-giving for others, that all of their efforts strike a chord in others and that they might live in the freedom of the daughters and sons of God. Let us pray together.
- For all Christian communities that suffer persecution due to ideology, intolerance or fanaticism, that they might find full peace and religious liberty. Let us pray together.
- For all those of the Franciscan family that, like Saint Francis, they may make the Gospel into a salvific event and know how to share with others the Good News of God the Father and of Jesus. Let us pray together.

Celebrant: O God, hear the prayers that we ask you in faith. Give all Christians and all men and women the gift of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

### **Prayer II:**

Response: Lord make us instruments of peace.

- You have created the heavens and the earth, and all that they contain. You have formed men and women from this precious earth, infusing them with your Spirit. You have done all this with goodness and love. But humankind often distances itself from you, and shows

preference for war over peace, for vendetta over pardon, for hate over love. Help us to respect the project of your creation. We pray.

- Your prophets announce that days are coming when the wolf will live with the lamb and no one will act wickedly. In many places around the world we hear the sounds of weapons. Forgotten conflicts, which nonetheless bring death, strike at defenseless populations, between the indifference of public opinion and the disinterest of the powerful. Help us to hear the cry of pain that comes from so many people of the earth. We pray.
- Your Son has taught us love, pardon and respect for the life of every person. We reflect painfully on the lives destroyed by terrorist attacks and in war zones. We entrust to you their souls and their families. We pray.
- The risen Christ has given us the gift of his peace. That the dignity of all people tormented by war be respected, so they might once again raise themselves up and embrace their children, joyful in the knowledge that the day of liberation is a bit closer. We entrust to you their hopes and their waiting. We pray.
- You desire that we replace the instruments of war with opportunities of growth and development. Be close to those who are responsible for Nations, that they might be touched by the pain of humanity and provide thought, effort and resources to promote life and progress. Bless and sustain those who carry in their heart a concern for the good. We pray.
- O God, obedient to your will, Jesus died while forgiving those who killed him. Only you, O God, can open hearts to the possibility of giving without measure, to impossible forgiveness, to uncomfortable solidarity, to a peace which kisses justice, to dialogue and to respect between religions. Help each one of us to be open to your grace. We pray.

**Presentation of Gifts:** Along with the bread and wine, consider presenting objects that represent our efforts to promote dialogue and peace in our world.

**Prayer over the gifts:** O God, remember Jesus who is peace itself and who has washed away our hatred with his blood. Because you love all men and women, look with mercy on us. As we celebrate the memory of the Spirit of Assisi, banish the violence and evil within us, and by this offering restore tranquility and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion:** O God, you satisfy our hunger with the one bread that gives strength to humankind. Help us to overcome all that divides us, and in the Spirit of Assisi help us to promote that peace which is the farewell gift of Jesus to all of us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Use the Blessing of Francis for the final blessing.**