

## MONTH OF COMPASSION 2006

### ***Women - Victims of Violence***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You told the women of Jerusalem not to weep for you  
but to weep for themselves.

Be with women who suffer violence in their homes and communities  
As they weep for their sons and daughters caught up in the violence.

Be with the women who live with domestic violence,  
Who have learnt not to weep for their own pains,  
Who have suffered so long they are numb.

Strengthen your Church in its care and support  
Of all who are in pain.

Help us to be sensitive and caring  
for you are the Lord who suffers and serves.

*(Papua New Guinea)*

### ***Jerusalem: Prayer of a Palestinian Woman***

From the land of the Resurrection and the cradle of the  
promise of salvation to all humankind through Jesus Christ  
our Lord, and with a candle of hope, we pray to you, God  
our Parent, that the action of peace seekers and peace  
makers may bear fruit, so that  
Hope will take the place of despair,  
Justice will prevail over oppression,  
Peace will turn strife into love.

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God, you are the God of life.  
Transform us in the depths of our hearts  
into people, through whom your peace  
is carried out into your world.

Send your Spirit into the hearts of those  
who are captured in the net of violence  
be it as perpetrators or as victims  
and let us never give up the search  
for the chance to talk to them.

*(Croatia)*



## **Prayer of Intercession**

### **Criminal Violence**

*Leader:* O God, listen to the cry of your suffering people who know no peace and cringe in terror, who are caught up in the midst of meaningless domestic violence and criminal violence of the greedy. Relieve them of their fears and fill their hearts with joy and thanksgiving.

*People:* O Lord our God, have mercy on us; O Lord our God, have mercy on us.

### **Poverty and Hunger**

*Leader:* O God, hear the cries of the poor and the hungry. Help us to recognize your Son Jesus Christ in the midst of the least of our brothers and sisters, that we may recognize their needs and fill the empty palms they extend to us.

*People:* Lord, grant us the gift of compassion.

### **Unemployment and Migration**

*Leader:* O God, whose will it is that we should live by the sweat of our brows in honest toil and labor, open the hearts of those who have the power to employ, so that those who labor receive just wages and a humane working environment. Strengthen us, O Lord, so that we may continue in solidarity with the victims of unjust labor and forced migration.

*People:* Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

### **Exploitation of Women**

*Leader:* O God, before whom we stand broken, we have failed to recognize your image and likeness among our sisters and mothers. Show us the way to respect and honor the dignity of every woman that we, with them, may find common ways of enriching our lives as you intend us to do.

*People:* Lord, forgive our sins.

### **Child Abuse**

*Leader:* O God, through your Son Jesus Christ you showed mercy upon the children and blessed them with promise of inheritance of your Kingdom. Move us to work for the annihilation of forces that continually deprive children of their sacred rights, that we may uphold the cause for which your Son himself died on the cross.

*People:* Lord, grant us the grace to do your will.



O Lord our God, in Jesus Christ you have put hatred to death. Through his death, in the silence of the cross you have reconciled human beings to one other and to yourself. Transform our words of violence into words of peace and give us the grace not to refuse the cost of this universal reconciliation. Amen.

Triune God, you have revealed to us that the works of darkness and injustice have to be conquered by the dying and rising of Jesus. Jesus' offer of peace encourages us to imitate him in breaking the bonds of inhumanity, of injustice, of hatred, of disunity. Strengthen us with your Spirit of peace that we may always hate evil, love good and establish justice. Do not allow us to cry "Peace" when we are comfortable but declare war against those who go hungry and live in precarious situations. Enable us to find your peace in humble and courageous service of the least of these who are members of your family. Amen.

*From the 2004 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ([WCC- Faith and Order](#))*

### **Prayer of St. 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;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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### **Suggested Biblical Texts:**

Genesis 4:9 – Care and support;  
Exodus 33:19/Philippians 2:1 – Compassion;  
Deuteronomy 30:3; Ezekiel 39:25 – Mercy & prosperity;  
Malachi 3:17 – God's people;  
Matthew 9:36 – Grace;  
Matthew 14:14/Mark 1:41 – Healing;  
Luke 15:20 – Forgiveness & reconciliation;  
Romans 9:15 – God's justice  
Colossians 3:12 – People of God



## THE PRAYERS

**based on a Palestinian litany written by Bishop Munib A. Younan**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful God, in the birth of your Son Jesus Christ in Bethlehem you became one of us; you shared our joy, suffering and pain. We thank you for taking refuge in Egypt and for identifying yourself with refugees and victims of political power. We thank you for your suffering on the cross and for identifying yourself with those who suffer from injustice and live under occupation.

**People:** Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Eternal God, you know the troubles and pains of the people of Israel-Palestine: We pray for the victims of injustice and violence but also for those who have caused suffering. We pray for those who cannot enter their places of work. We pray for young people who are losing their hope for the future and for mothers who are tired of bloodshed and killing. We pray for the bereaved families, who have lost their beloved ones.

**People:** Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray for the recovery of the injured. We pray for those who have to live with permanent disability. We pray for politicians; grant them wisdom and courage to search for reconciliation and peace.

**People:** Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We are all created in your image. Grant us courage to recognize every person's human, religious, civil and political rights. Help us to build a culture of peace, justice and reconciliation. Free us from all hatred and bitterness.

**People:** Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." (John 14:27) Give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Merciful God, accept our prayers and yearnings. You are our only strength, refuge and hope. In the name of Jesus – our liberator and redeemer.

**People:** Amen.

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*God weeps over God's world, aching because of the crime, violence, corruption and greed that cause untold suffering and pain.*

*God depends on you to use your influence on the powerful to use their power for justice, for peace, for compassion, for gentleness, for caring, for sharing. God - Emmanuel, God with us, with you - has no one but you to help God make this world hospitable to peace and justice. AMEN!*

