57th World Day of Peace, 1st January, 2024

Artificial Intelligence and Peace

Prayer for peace by Pope Francis

Mary, look at us! We stand here before you. You are our Mother, and you know our struggles and our hurts. Queen of Peace, you suffer with us and for us, as you see so many of your children suffering from the conflicts and wars that are tearing our world apart.

This is a dark hour. This is a dark hour, Mother. In this dark hour, we look to you, and in the light of your countenance we entrust ourselves and our problems to your maternal Heart, which knows our anxieties and fears. How great was your concern when there was no place for Jesus at the inn! How great was your fear when you fled in haste to Egypt because Herod sought to kill him! How great was your anguish before you found him in the Temple! Yet, Mother, amid those trials, you showed your strength, you acted boldly: you trusted in God and responded to concern with tender care, to fear with love, to anguish with acceptance. Mother, you did not step back, but at decisive moments you always took initiative: with haste you visited Elizabeth; at the wedding feast of Cana you prompted Jesus' first miracle; in the Upper Room you kept the disciples united. And when, on Calvary, a sword pierced your heart, Mother, by your humility and strength you kept alive the hope of Easter through the night of sorrow.

Now, Mother, once more take the initiative for us, in these times rent by conflicts and laid waste by the fire of arms. Turn your eyes of mercy towards our human family, which has strayed from the path of peace, preferred Cain to Abel and lost the ability to see each other as brothers and sisters dwelling in a common home. Intercede for our world, in such turmoil and great danger. Teach us to cherish and care for life – each and every human life! – and to repudiate the folly of war, which sows death and eliminates the future.

Mary, how many times have you come, urging prayer and repentance. Yet, caught up in our own needs and distracted by the things of this world, we have turned a deaf ear to your appeal. In your love for us, you never abandon us, Mother. Lead us by the hand. Lead us by the hand and bring us to conversion; help us once again to put God first. Help us to preserve unity in the Church and to be artisans of communion in our world. Make us realize once more the importance of the role we play; strengthen our sense of responsibility for the cause of peace as men and women called to pray, worship, intercede and make reparation for the whole human race.

By ourselves, Mother, we cannot succeed; without your Son, we can do nothing. But you bring us back to Jesus, who is our Peace. Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, we come before you and we seek refuge in your Immaculate Heart. Mother of mercy, we appeal

for mercy! Queen of Peace, we appeal for peace! Touch the hearts of those imprisoned by hatred; convert those who fuel and foment conflict. Dry the tears of children – at this hour, so many are weeping! – be present to those who are elderly and alone; strengthen the wounded and the sick; protect those forced to leave their lands and their loved ones; console the crestfallen; awaken new hope.

To you we entrust and consecrate our lives and every fibre of our being, all that we possess and all that we are, forever. To you we consecrate the Church, so that in her witness to the love of Jesus before the world, she may be a sign of harmony and an instrument of peace. To you we consecrate our world, to you we consecrate especially those countries and regions at war.

Your faithful people call you the dawn of salvation; Mother, grant that glimmers of light may illumine the dark night of conflict. Dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit, inspire the leaders of nations to seek paths of peace. Queen of all peoples, reconcile your children, seduced by evil, blinded by power and hate. You, who are close to all, shorten our distances. You, who have compassion on everyone, teach us to care for one another. You, who reveal the Lord's tender love, make us witnesses of his consolation and peace. Mother, Queen of Peace, pour forth into our hearts God's gift of harmony. Amen.

(27th October, 2023)

Talba għall-paċi mill-Papa Franġisku

Marija, ħares lejna! Ninsabu hawn quddiemek. Inti Omm, taf x'inhuma t-toqol tagħna u l-ġrieħi tagħna. Inti, Reġina tal-Paċi, tbati magħna u għalina xħin tara lil uliedek għajjiena minħabba l-kunflitti, bid-djieqa f'qalbhom minħabba l-gwerer li qed ikissru d-dinja.

Siegħa ta' dlam. Din hi siegħa ta' dlam, Omm tagħna. U f'dis-siegħa ta' dlam aħna nintilfu f'għajnejk ileqqu u nafdaw ruħna fil-qalb ħanina tiegħek, sensibbli għall-problemi tagħna. Qalbek ma kinitx meħlusa mill-inkwiet u l-biża': kemm ansjetà meta ma kienx hemm post għal Ġesù fil-lukanda, kemm biża' meta bil-ħeffa ħrabtu lejn l-Eġittu għax Erodi ried joqtlu, kemm swied il-qalb meta tliftuh fit-tempju! Imma, Omm tagħna, waqt il-provi int kont kuraġġuża, ma qtajtx qalbek: afdajt f'Alla u għal dawk il-preokkupazzjonijiet weġibt bil-kura, għall-biża' bl-imħabba, għall-ansjetà bl-offerta. Omm tagħna, inti ma bqajtx lura, iżda fil-mumenti deċisivi ħadt l-inizjattiva: bil-ħeffa mort għand Eliżabetta, fit-tieġ ta' Kana ksibt mingħand Ġesù l-ewwel miraklu, fiċ-Ċenaklu żammejt lid-dixxipli magħqudin. U meta fuq il-Kalvarju sejf nifidlek ruħek, Omm tagħna, mara umli, mara qawwija, il-lejl tad-dulur insiġtu bit-tama tal-Għid.

Issa, Omm tagħna, erġa' ħu l-inizjattiva għal darb'oħra; ħudha f'isimna, f'dawn iż-żminijiet mifnijin bil-gwerer u mkissrin bl-armi. Dawwar ħarstek ħanina fuq il-familja umana, li nsiet it-triq tal-paċi, li għażlet lil Kajin minflok lil Abel u, għax tilfet is-sens tal-fraternità mhix qed issib l-atmosfera tad-dar. Interċedi għad-dinja tagħna li tinsab fil-periklu u ta' taħt

fuq. Għallimna nilqgħu u nieħdu ħsieb il-ħajja - kull ħajja umana! – u għallimna nirrifjutaw il-ġenn tal-gwerra, li tiżra' l-mewt u xxejjen il-ġejjieni.

Marija, bosta drabi ġejt tiltaqa' magħna, titlobna t-talb u l-penitenza. Però, aħna, moħħna biss fil-ħtiġijiet tagħna u aljenati mill-interessi tad-dinja, bqajna torox għall-istedin tiegħek. Iżda itni, li tħobbna, ma taqtax qalbek minna, Omm tagħna. Aqbadna minn idejna. Aqbadna min idejna u mexxina lejn il-konverżjoni, agħmel li nerġgħu nqiegħdu lil Alla fl-ewwel post. Għinna nħarsu l-għaqda fil-Knisja u nkunu artiġġjani tal-komunjoni fid-dinja. Erġa' fakkarna fl-importanza tar-rwol tagħna, agħmilna responsabbli tal-paċi, imsejħin biex nitolbu u naduraw, biex ninterċedu u npattu għall-ġeneru uman kollu kemm hu.

Omm tagħna, waħedna ma naslux, mingħajr Ibnek ma nistgħu nagħmlu xejn. Imma int terġa' toħodna għand Ġesù li hu l-paċi tagħna. Għalhekk, Omm Alla u Ommna, aħna niġu għandek, infittxu kenn fil-Qalb Immakulata tiegħek. Ninvokaw il-ħniena, Omm tal-ħniena; paċi, Reġina tal-paċi! Ċaqlaq il-qlub ta' min hu maqbud fin-nassa tal-mibegħda, ikkonverti lil min ixewwex u jkebbes il-kunflitti. Imsaħ id-dmugħ tat-tfal – f'dis-siegħa qalbhom maqsuma bil-biki! -, għin lil min hu waħdu jew anzjan, wieżen lill-feruti u lill-morda, ħares lil min kellu jħalli pajjiżu u kulma hu l-aktar għażiż għalih, farraġ lil min tilef il-fiduċja, erġa' kebbes it-tama.

Nafdaw f'idejk u nikkonsagrawlek ħajjietna, kull fibra ta' dak li aħna, ta' dak li għandna, għal dejjem. Nikkonsagrawlek il-Knisja sabiex bħala xhud tal-imħabba ta' Kristu lid-dinja, tkun sinjal ta' armonija, strument tal-paċi. Nikkonsagrawlek id-dinja tagħna, nikkonsagrawlek b'mod speċjali il-pajjiżi u r-reġjuni li qiegħdin fi gwerra.

Il-poplu tal-fidili jagħrfek bħala ż-żerniq tas-salvazzjoni: Omm tagħna, iftaħ raġġi ta' dawl f'dal-lejl ta' kunflitti. Int, għamara tal-Ispirtu s-Santu, nebbaħ it-toroq tal-paċi lil min hu responsabbli min-nazzjonijiet. Int, Sinjura tal-popli kollha, irrikonċilja 'l-uliedek, imsaħħrin mill-ħażen, mogħmija mis-setgħa u mill-mibegħda. Int, li int qrib kulħadd, naqqas id-distanzi ta' bejnietna. Inti li tħenn għal kulħadd, għallimna nieħdu ħsieb l-oħrajn, agħmilna xhieda tal-faraġ tiegħek. Omm tagħna, Int, Reġina tal-paċi, sawwab l-armonija ta' Alla fil-qlub. Ammen.

(27 ta' Ottubru, 2023)