

Prayers
By
Various
Saints or
Significant
Persons

Trust in God

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to play, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us. Amen.

St. Teresa of Avila

The Body of Christ

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St. Theresa of Avila

God Has a Plan for Me.

God has created me to do some definite service; he has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. God has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place. Therefore, I trust will God. Whatever, wherever I am. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve God; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve God; in sorrow, my sorrow may serve God. God does nothing in vain.

Adapted from a prayer by St. John Henry Newman

Prayer for Insight

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding.

Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express

myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion.

I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas – Patron Saint of Scholars and Students

Grant to me O Lord

Grant me, O Lord my God,

- a mind to know you,
- a heart to seek you,
- wisdom to find you
- conduct pleasing to you,
- faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
- and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas – Patron Saint of Scholars and Students

Come, Holy Spirit, divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom!

Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself.

Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to a successful completion.

Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas – Patron Saint of Scholars and Students

Make us worthy, Lord,

To serve our sisters and brothers throughout the world who love and die in poverty or hunger.

Give them through our hands,

this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Peace At Last

O Lord, support us all day long, until the shadows lengthen,

and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed,

and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at last. Amen.

St. John Henry Newman

My Gift

Lord, I freely yield all my freedom to you.
Take my memory, my intellect, and my entire will.
You have given me anything I am or have;
I give it back to you to stand under your will alone.
Your love and your grace are enough for me;
I shall ask for nothing more. Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

May God the Father who made us bless us.
May God the Son send his healing among us.
May God the Holy Spirit move within us and
give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with,
and hands that your work might be done.
May we walk and preach the word of
God to all.
May the angel of peace watch over us and
lead us at last by God's grace to the
Kingdom.

St. Dominic

The Slow Work of God

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so, I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

The Mystery of the Romero Prayer

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders;
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own.
Amen.

Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw – A reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Oscar Romero

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity.
Pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice, and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence, and war.
May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us,
and thus, forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams.
AMEN! Alleluia!
(Pope Francis' Encyclical, Prayer from Fratelli Tutti, published October 4, 2020.)

Trinity of Love

O God, Trinity of Love,
From the profound communion of your divine life,
Pour out upon us a torrent of familial love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.
Grant that we Christians may love the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing Him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and the forgotten of our world,
and risen in each sister or brother
Who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
Reflected in all the peoples of the earth
So that we may discover anew
That all are important and necessary,
Different faces of the one humanity
That God so loves. Amen
(Pope Francis' Encyclical, Prayer from Fratelli Tutti, published October 4, 2020.)

Pledge to Fraternity and Social Friendship

In the name of God who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the values of goodness, love and peace;

- In the name of innocent human life that God has forbidden to kill, affirming that whoever kills a person is like one who kills the whole of humanity, and that whoever saves a person is like one who saves the whole of humanity;
- In the name of the poor, the destitute, the marginalized and those most in need whom God has commanded us to help as a duty required of all persons, especially the wealthy and of means; In the name of orphans, widows, refugees and those exiled from their homes and their countries; in the name of all victims of wars, persecution and injustice; in the name of the weak, those who live in fear, prisoners of war and those tortured in any part of the world, without distinction;
- In the name of peoples who have lost their security, peace, and the possibility of living together, becoming victims of destruction, calamity and war;
- In the name of human fraternity that embraces all human beings, unites them and renders them equal;
- In the name of this fraternity torn apart by policies of extremism and division, by systems of unrestrained profit or by hateful ideological tendencies that manipulate the actions and the future of men and women;
- In the name of freedom, that God has given to all human beings creating them free and distinguishing them by this gift;
- In the name of justice and mercy, the foundations of prosperity and the cornerstone of faith; In the name of all persons of good will present in every part of the world;
- In the name of God and of everything stated thus far; I _____ pledge and declare the adoption of a culture of dialogue as the path; mutual cooperation as the code of conduct; reciprocal understanding as the method and standard.

We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with Him and His judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this pledge call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace; to intervene at the earliest opportunity to stop the shedding of innocent blood and bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing.

We also call upon intellectuals, philosophers, religious figures, artists, media professionals and men and women of culture in every part of the world, to rediscover the values of peace, justice,

goodness, beauty, human fraternity and coexistence in order to confirm the importance of these values as anchors of salvation for all, and to promote them everywhere.

(Adapted from the Document on Fraternity and Social Friendship, the declaration signed on February 4, 2019 in Abu Dhabi by the Grand Imam of Cairo, Ahmad Al-Tayeb and Pope Francis.)

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