

Novena for Peace

Opening Prayer: The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi



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.

Oh, 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.

Reflection & Meditation Questions:

In what ways have I been an instrument of peace today?

Where was God in it?

What robs me of my peace?

Can I find God there too? Do I let God call to me in my frustration, anger, confusion and hurt? Do I let God in when I am not perfect?

Is there someone who needs my forgiveness and blessing? Is there someone whose blessing and forgiveness I need to seek?

What must I surrender or embrace to allow that to come to pass?

Is there someone who needs my consolation, my understanding and my love?

Do I trust God enough to give freely of myself without expectation of consolation, understanding, or love in return?

Where or when did I experience love today?

Did I look for and see the face of God in others, accepting God's love from them? Was I able to be the face of God for others? Did I miss an opportunity to love?

Closing prayers:

Master of the Universe, you are the author of all life, all love, all peace and for that I give thanks. In gratitude for all I've been given, and with faith and hope in your immense Love within me, I seek to join my heart and voice with all who desire to become instruments of peace.

I seek the courage and strength to act with unconditional love and forgiveness. Help me to walk each day conscious of our Oneness and your Presence in me and in all others so that I might fearlessly live out your command to love my neighbor as myself.