



*Affirming the vision and practice of active nonviolence  
at the heart of the Catholic Church.*

*A project of Pax Christi International*

## **World Day of Peace 2017 Litany of disarmament prayer service**

*This year Pope Francis has asked Catholics to focus World Day of Peace on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. What can you do to affirm the centrality of active nonviolence in message of Jesus, the life of the Catholic Church, and to the calling to be part of the healing and reconciling of both people and our earth?*

*In our families, schools, and institutions, we must learn the things that make for peace. There are effective Christian ways to counter war, terrorism, and social and domestic violence that can be accomplished without resorting to violence or military options. We must reach out to engage in positive encounters with our neighbors, in civil dialogue for the common good, and building skills to address these problems in meaningful ways.*

*Working together, we can creatively build “cultures of peace” and our churches can become places of peacemaking in our communities.*

### **Welcome**

- Opening hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”
- Opening prayer
- Scripture reading: Matthew 5: 38-48
- Reflection

**LEADER:** In our time we live with the constant threats of war, poverty is increasing, the climate crisis is escalating, and violence has become an epidemic. On this International Day of Peace, we ask the God of Peace to disarm our hearts and transform us through the power of the Spirit, so that we might live the Gospel call of nonviolent love. Our response will be God of Peace, disarm us.

### **WAR**

We pray to be disarmed from our pride, which leads to domination. May the God of Peace, grant us humility and understanding, knowing our place is that of service to all creation.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from anger, knowing that anger is a lack of patience and an absence of creativity. May the God of Peace, grant us a spirit of creativity and patience, so we may live a dynamic life of compassion.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from all weapons, especially those that are readily available and socially acceptable. May God grant us the faith necessary, to believe that we are better than our weapons and that we might have

enough courage to lay down our arms, in favor of lifting up the poor.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from the need to be in control. Knowing, that if we wish to walk the narrow way of peace, we must always be willing to be open to the God of Peace who is constantly calling us to be free from a self-centered mindset.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

**ALL: God of Peace, thank you for your gift of disarmament. Empower us to wage peace rather than war. We wage peace by seeking justice in all aspects of life. Today, we choose to disrupt the cycle of injustice, and vow to establish justice in our time, with your help. Amen.**

### ***POVERTY***

We pray to be disarmed from social systems, which exploit and marginalize God's people by using them as a means for economic superiority, all while demonizing those who do not measure up. May the God of Peace, soften our hearts to the poor and empower us to disrupt the social systems, which seek to create elitism rather than, community.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from disordered attachments. May the God of Peace, give us the grace to be free from attachments, which cause violence in our lives and the world around us.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from the desire for more. May we wake up to the truth that what we have is enough; knowing that what we have is far more than what others have.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from the privileged lifestyles we live. May the God of Peace, empower us to know that the poor have a blessed experience in which we partake.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

**ALL: God of Peace, thank you for your gift of disarmament. So many worldwide live on only two dollars a day because of unjust economic systems, which favor some, while exploiting others. As people of faith, give us the power to convert these economic systems of exploitation into communities where everyone has enough. Amen.**

### ***CLIMATE CRISIS***

We pray to be disarmed from the corporations, which rape creation in pursuit of their pleasure. May we learn to honor creation by respecting our place in this world, as one with all that is around us.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from complacency. God of Peace, set us on fire for action so that our every step, breath, and observation, may move us into reverence for the beauty around us.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from animal cruelty. Inspire us, Creator God, to alleviate the pain animals experience because of us. May we cease all ways in which we harm all beings and empower us to adopt a lifestyle, which is based upon boundless compassion.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from unsustainable energy systems. Inspire us, Creator God, to re-imagine our ways of living on this planet. Give us the wisdom to develop new energy systems, which promote relationships rather than ecological domination.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

**ALL: God of Peace, thank you for your gift of disarmament. Creator, as we strive to walk the narrow way of peace, renew us through Your Spirit. May we be faithful in developing lifestyles, which reverence Your presence throughout creation. Amen.**

***EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE***

We pray to be disarmed from interior violence. God of Peace, soften our hearts and teach us to be kind to ourselves, in both word and deed.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from social violence. Teach us, source of all peace, how to practice nonviolence with all people. May our practice of nonviolent love, alleviate shame, disgrace, redeem the oppressor, and welcome the outcast.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from violence in our work places and schools. God of Peace, give us the love we need at work or school, becomes difficult. May we have eyes to see that others may be in pain and need the special gift of care, which we are being called to share with them in that moment.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

We pray to be disarmed from systems of violence. May the Spirit of Peace empower us to subvert systems of violence by taking risks that herald in the reign of God, which is a reign of all-inclusive and nonviolent love.

**We pray: God of Peace, disarm us.**

**ALL: All loving and nonviolent God, thank you for your gift of disarmament. Renew our spirits today, God of Peace, and give us the grace to practice nonviolence in the face of the culture of violence in which we live. Give us each day the grace to follow the example of Jesus, who practiced nonviolence. He showed the power of nonviolence on the cross when He forgave His tormentors. Empower us to actively engage in peacemaking, so that we may become your children of peace. Amen.**

LEADER: Justice, equity, one with creation, and peace; these are the pillars which hold up a culture of nonviolence. May these pillars be written on our hearts. Let us take them with us from this sacred space, and bring them to our world, which is torn apart by the sin of violence. By our prophetic action and faithful witness, we can usher in the reign of God. Let us be the peace we want for our world.

**ALL: Amen!**

Following the Litany, there will be a time of silence for five minutes, which will conclude with the ringing of bells as the dismissal.

*The Litany of Disarmament was written by Jerry M. Maynard for the International Day of Peace 2016.*

**Catholic Nonviolence Initiative • [www.nonviolencejustpeace.net](http://www.nonviolencejustpeace.net)**