

Nine Days of Prayer for a United Nation

This election year has exposed deep rifts within our country as candidates and their supporters launch personal attacks on one another and on the most marginalized of our society, including immigrants and refugees, Muslim Americans and workers displaced by a globalized economy. Please join the Sisters of Mercy in praying daily for voters to consider the common good in their choices for national, state and local leaders; to treat with respect even those who hold differing opinions about the direction of our country; and to commit themselves to a peaceful transfer of power after the election. Let us #MakeMercyReal through our prayer, rhetoric and actions at this time of national stress.

October 28

Let us pray for all of our neighbors, especially the political candidates and their families, all voters who exercise their right to participate in a safe and secure process, and all those who work at the polls.

Which is the first of all Commandments? Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ~Mark 12: 28-31

We must regain the conviction that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of goodness, faith and honesty. It is time to acknowledge that lighthearted superficiality has done us no good. ~Laudato Si` #229

October 29

Let us pray that all citizens spend time in thoughtful and respectful dialog and consider the common good and work toward peace and healing in our divided nation.

Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called children of God.
~Matthew 5:9

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one...Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
~Laudato Si` Prayer

October 30

Let us pray for leaders who reflect “the great leaders of history who refuse to barter their ideals for the sake of their personal interests and who rebelled against the lies of their times.”

~Sister Joan Chittister, OSB

You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side, your rod and staff gives me courage. ~Psalm 23

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. ~Laudato Si` Prayer

October 31

Let us pray that all citizens will be treated with dignity and respect and not be discriminated against or intimidated during the voting process. Let there be peace!

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:6-7

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. ~Laudato Si` Prayer

November 1 – All Saints Day

Let us pray for leaders who will work with others to bring safety to the world, who will lead a government that provides for the growth of this country without taking the resources from others to achieve it. Let us be instruments of your peace!!

I will look after my sheep, says the Lord, and I will appoint a shepherd to pasture them, and I, the Lord will be their God. ~Ezekiel 34:11

*Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good, Praise be to You!
~Laudato Si` prayer*

November 2 – All Souls Day

Let us pray that we break all divisions among us and strive to create a just and peaceful world for all.

Happy are those who fear the Lord, who delight in God's commands. They shine through the darkness, a light for the upright, they are gracious, merciful and just. ~Psalm 112

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. ~Laudato Si` Prayer

November 3

Let us pray that love permeates all of our actions and that we strive to find the truth in every person, especially those with whom we have differing opinions and stands on issues. Let us be instruments of peace!

May Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. ~2 Thessalonians 2:16

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also, macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones. ~Laudato Si` #231

November 4 – Election Eve

Let us pray that God blesses our divided nation with the will and determination to lay aside differences and seek the common good. Let us be instruments of peace!

To you, O Lord, I call, My Rock, do not be deaf to me. If you fail to answer me I will join those who go down to the pit. Hear the sound of my pleading when I cry to you, lifting my hands toward your holy place. Do not drag me off with the wicked with those who do wrong.

Who speak peace to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.
~Psalm 28 1-3

The common good is the sum of those conditions of social life, which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment. Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her own development. It also has to do with the overall welfare of society, applying the principle of subsidiarity.
~Laudato Si` #157

November 5 – Election Day

Let us pray that the people of the United States put aside all disappointments, anger, negativity, anguish and doubt, and pledge to work toward a peaceful transfer of power.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you whose credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. But rather love your enemies and do good to them. ~Luke 6:31-35

Jesus reminds us that we have God as our common Father and this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous, it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love your enemies.
~Laudato Si` #228