

PRAYER FOR OUR SUFFERING WORLD at the Pieta Statue in St. Joseph Chapel

We pray for healing and reconciliation in our own lives, in our country and around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

Mary, we reverence your power to soothe and heal us, and we acknowledge our need to continue to work toward our valued goals of healing and reconciliation for all peoples. We admit our failures in these efforts and our continuing need for prayer and forgiveness. You have been called ‘the maternal face of God.’ We are grateful to call you ‘Mother.’ (Pause)

REFLECTION

Mary lived under the rules of a nation that did not respect its people. She understands our need for healing and reconciliation in our lives. She is Mother of those who are deceived, Mother of those who are betrayed, Mother of those who are maligned, Mother of those who are unjustly imprisoned, Mother of those who suffer from hunger and cold. Mary is Mother of those who suffer from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, Mother of those who are victims of violence, Mother of women--wives and mothers and sisters--who have been so deeply saddened by the disappointments of life. Mary is Mother of those who are frightened, Mother of those unfairly suspected, Mother of refugees who have been denied safety.

We ask you, our healing Mother, to grant us the ability to live in hope, liberty, and truth, and to be reconcilers and peacemakers, in fidelity to you and your Son.

INVITATION TO QUIET REFLECTION

Let us bring the world’s sorrows and our personal pain to Mary.

We pray for ourselves:

- Mary, save us from ourselves, save us from the vengeance in our hearts and the acid in our souls.
- Mary, save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt, to punish as we have been punished, to frighten as we have been frightened.
- Mary, give us the strength it takes to listen rather than to judge, to trust rather than to fear, to try again even when peace eludes us.
- Mary, we ask for the grace to be our best selves, for the vision to be healers of our communities rather than its dividers.
- Mary, we ask for humility as a people to understand the fears and hopes of our family members and neighbors.

We pray for those who need healing and reconciliation in their lives. (Pause)

We invite you to write a special intention dear to your heart on the paper heart which will be given to you and either place it in the basket OR share it at the microphone. We will read the intentions aloud.

PETITIONS

We pray for those who need healing and reconciliation, especially for (read names on the hearts)

(Please repeat the response after each intention.)

RESPONSE: We ask you, Mary, Compassionate one, to open our hearts.

We ask for the heart it takes to care for all the women and children of the Middle East, Northern Europe, and our Southern Border, to care for all people as well as for ourselves.

RESPONSE

We ask for the love it takes to bequeath to our children the grace to become more than the failures they see in us and our nation.

RESPONSE

We ask that we may be strengthened to care for our own and others in need throughout our lives.

RESPONSE

We ask that world leaders may be open to bring about healing and reconciliation in their own nations and among nations.

RESPONSE

We ask that we may be healers and reconcilers in our part of the world so all people may have the blessings of well-being, freedom, and faith.

RESPONSE

QUIET PRAYER: We pause in quiet prayer for all in need of healing and reconciliation.

CLOSING

Mary, to be a person of healing, compassion, hope and peace, is to be one who unites rather than divides; who seeks to love rather than to vent animosity; one who gives wholeheartedly rather than grasping selfishly; a person at home with oneself, and so, at home with others. Help us to become this healing and reconciling person with the grace of your Son. Amen.