

CLOSING
PRAYER
HANDOUT

Prayer of St. Francis with Pope Francis

Reader: "Let the cry for peace ring out in all the world."

(tweeted by Pope Francis 9/4/13)

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Reader: "Where we find hate and darkness, may we bring hope in order to give a human face to society." *(tweeted 9/30/13)*

All: Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Reader: "God is so merciful toward us. We too should learn to be merciful, especially with those who suffer." *(tweeted 7/17/13)*

All: Where there is injury, pardon;

Reader: "Christians know how to face difficulties, trials and defeat with serenity and hope in the Lord." *(tweeted 10/31/13)*

All: Where there is doubt, faith;

Reader: "We ought to never lose hope. God overwhelms us with grace if we keep asking." *(tweeted 9/9/13)*

All: Where there is despair, hope;

Reader: "The light of faith illumines all our relationships and helps us to live them in union with the love of Christ, to live them like Christ." *(tweeted 8/5/13)*

All: Where there is darkness, light;

Reader: "If we wish to follow Christ closely, we cannot choose an easy, quiet life. It will be a demanding life, but full of joy." *(tweeted 7/10/13)*

All: And where there is sadness, joy.

Reader: "Let us allow Jesus into our lives and leave behind our selfishness, indifference and closed attitudes to others." *(tweeted 8/27/13)*

All: O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

Reader: "Let us ask the Lord to give us the gentleness to look upon the poor with understanding and love, devoid of human calculation and fear." *(tweeted 9/24/13)*

All: To be understood as to understand;

Reader: "God loves us. May we discover the beauty of loving and being loved." *(tweeted 11/11/13)*

All: To be loved as to love.

Reader: "Every time we give in to selfishness and say 'No' to God, we spoil his loving plan for us." *(tweeted 5/26/13)*

All: For it is in giving that we receive:

Reader: "We are all sinners, but we experience the joy of God's forgiveness and we walk forward truly in his mercy." *(tweeted 9/19/13)*

All: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(Prayer adapted from a prayer developed by Mary Ann Otto, Stewardship and Special Projects Director, Diocese of Green Bay, and by Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis)