

Liturgical Options

Immigrants, Migrants, National Unity
February 1, 2017

Penitential Act

In addition to the invocation offered in the Order of Mass, sample invocations are included in Appendix VI or the Roman Missal. Among those samples, nos. I and III seem most appropriate.

The rubrics allow for the possibility of invocations which show the Lord's mercy more concretely for the local community. Some examples could be:

Lord Jesus, you came to bring peace through the blood of your Cross; Lord, have mercy...
Lord Jesus, you died and rose for the salvation of the world; Christ, have mercy...
Lord Jesus, you will come again to establish your Kingdom of justice for ever;
Lord, have mercy...

Lord Jesus, you are love incarnate; Lord, have mercy...
Lord Jesus, you are merciful to your people; Christ have mercy...
Lord Jesus, you grant pardon and peace to sinners; Lord, have mercy...

Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation

The two beautiful Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation may be used at daily and Sunday Masses, especially when “the mystery of reconciliation is conveyed to the faithful in a special way” (*see Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation*). The EP for Reconciliation II seems particularly appropriate in this time. These are in the Roman Missal.

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions may be celebrated on Ordinary Time weekdays (*see GIRM, chapter VIII*). You may use all of the prayers for the Mass you are celebrating with the readings of the day or with the corresponding readings from volume IV of the Lectionary for Mass. You also may use only the collect for the Mass for Various Needs. The vestments for the liturgical day may be worn or, if the Mass texts are penitential, violet vestments may be used. The following Masses seem particularly appropriate during these troubled times:

- No. 15: For Promoting Harmony
- No. 16: For Reconciliation
- No. 19: For Persecuted Christians
- No. 21: For the Nation or State
- No. 22: For those in Public Office
- No. 30: For the Preservation of Peace and Justice
- No. 32: For Refugees and Exiles

Sample Intercessions

Immigrants, Migrants, National Unity

For peace in our world, our nation, and in our homes; let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, that the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit may guide us in our laws and policies; let us pray to the Lord.

For government officials, that they will constantly seek the public good in the laws that they create, enforce and judge; let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we discern balancing our national safety with Jesus' command to welcome the stranger; let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, that political differences may be resolved through respect and dialogue; let us pray to the Lord.

For the conversion of heart for those who seek to do us harm; let us pray to the Lord.

For refugees fleeing from violence and oppression, that the citizens of the world may find ways to welcome them; let us pray to the Lord.

For children who experience violence and war, that the Lord will heal their souls and comfort their sorrowful hearts; let us pray to the Lord.

For immigrants, refugees and the families affected by recent travel restrictions, that God will grant them patience, perseverance and hope as they await entry into our country; let us pray to the Lord.

For the grace to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors; let us pray to the Lord.

For ourselves, that's God's love will burn in our hearts so that the coldness of hate may never enter them; let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers for Peace

Saint Pope John Paul II

Salve, Madre santa! Virgin Daughter of Zion,
how deeply must your Mother's heart suffer for this bloodshed!

The child you embrace has a name that is dear to the peoples of biblical religion: “Jesus,” which means “God saves.” So the Archangel named him before he was conceived in your womb (cf. Lk 2,21). In the face of the newborn Messiah, we recognize the face of all your children, who suffer from being despised and exploited. We recognize especially the faces of your children, to whatever race, nation or culture they may belong.

For them, O Mary, for their future, we ask you to move hearts hardened by hatred so that they may open to love and so that revenge may finally give way to forgiveness.

Obtain for us, O Mother, that the truth of this affirmation — *No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness* — be engraved on every heart. Thus the human family will be able to find the true peace, that flows from the union of justice and mercy.

Holy Mother, Mother of the Prince of Peace, help us!
Mother of Humanity and Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Lead me from Death to Life,
from Falsehood to Truth.
Lead me from Despair to Hope,
from Fear to Trust,
Lead me from Hate to Love,
from War to Peace.
Let Peace fill our Heart,
our World, our Universe.
Peace. Peace. Peace

Saint Pope John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace,
who are yourself our peace and reconciliation,
who so often said, “Peace to you,”
grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.
Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

USCCB Information

Statement of Conference President & Vice President

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB, have issued the following joint statement regarding the recent executive order on the new refugee policy announced by President Trump this past Friday. President Trump's executive order suspends the entry of refugees into the United States for 120 days. The order also indefinitely stops the admission of Syrian refugees and for 90 days, bars individuals from seven predominantly Muslim countries.

Full joint statement as follows:

Over the past several days, many brother bishops have spoken out in defense of God's people. We are grateful for their witness. Now, we call upon all the Catholic faithful to join us as we unite our voices with all who speak in defense of human dignity.

The bond between Christians and Muslims is founded on the unbreakable strength of charity and justice. The Second Vatican Council in *Nostra Aetate* urged us to sincerely work toward a mutual understanding that would "promote together for the benefit of all mankind social justice and moral welfare, as well as peace and freedom." The Church will not waiver in her defense of our sisters and brothers of all faiths who suffer at the hands of merciless persecutors.

The refugees fleeing from ISIS and other extremists are sacrificing all they have in the name of peace and freedom. Often, they could be spared if only they surrendered to the violent vision of their tormentors. They stand firm in their faith. Many are families, no different from yours or mine, seeking safety and security for their children. Our nation should welcome them as allies in a common fight against evil. We must screen vigilantly for infiltrators who would do us harm, but we must always be equally vigilant in our welcome of friends.

The Lord Jesus fled the tyranny of Herod, was falsely accused and then deserted by his friends. He had nowhere to lay His head (Lk. 9:58). Welcoming the stranger and those in flight is not one option among many in the Christian life. It is the very form of Christianity itself. Our actions must remind people of Jesus. The actions of our government must remind people of basic humanity. Where our brothers and sisters suffer rejection and abandonment we will lift our voice on their behalf. We will welcome them and receive them. They are Jesus and the Church will not turn away from Him.

Our desire is not to enter the political arena, but rather to proclaim Christ alive in the world today. In the very moment a family abandons their home under threat of death, Jesus is present. And He says to each of us, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (MT 25:40).