Charity and Peace - Prayers and Affirmations

Prayer Options:

1. Almighty and eternal God, you were pleased to make your Church illustrious through the varied splendour of the Saints.

   As we venerate their memory may we also follow such shining examples of virtue on earth and thus obtain merited crowns in heaven. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

   AMEN.

   Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo York Catholic District School Board

2. God of Hope, Autumn turns to winter.
   Grass turns brown. Leaves lose their last leaves, Silent, empty branches reach upward.
   You teach us with the gift of seasons that death is not the end
   And this lesson we need in a special way this month.
   God of Wisdom,
   Today is All Saints
   We rejoice with those who have understood and lived your lessons of Love. We reach out to them as we know you reach out to us through the communion of the saints.

   AMEN.

   -Les Miller

3. Prayer for the Departed

   Lord, those who die still live in your presence;
   Their lives change but do not end.
   I pray for my family, relatives, and friends,
   And for all the dead known to you alone.
   In company with Christ,
   Who died and now lives,
   May they rejoice in your kingdom,
   Where all our tears are wiped away.
   Unite us together again in one family,
   To sing your praise for ever and ever.

   AMEN
4. **Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  

**AMEN**

5. **Prayer for Peace in Our Communities and the World**  
(By: Education for Justice)

We pray to you, Creator:  
Hear our voices, for they are the voices of the victims of all wars and violence.  
Hear our voices, for they are the voices of all children who suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.  
Hear our voices, when we beg you, Lord, to instill in all human hearts the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of solidarity.  
Hear our voices, for we speak for the multitudes in every country who do not want violence and war and are ready to walk the road of peace.  
Hear our voices, and grant us insight and courage so we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to social justice, to need with sharing, and to war with peace.  

- Adapted from a prayer for peace by Pope John Paul II

6. **Justice and Peace Prayer**

God of Justice and Peace,  
Mold our consciences according to justice,  
And shape our hearts according to peace,  
That we may recognize the talents that you have given us  
To secure the rights of the poor,  
the oppressed, the sick  
and the marginalized.  
God, we are your children.  
Grant us the courage and strength  
To work for justice,  
And in this way,  
Live out our call to be peacemakers.
**Intentions:**

We know that peace can be uneasy. We know that peace can be fragile. We know that peace can hide oppression. We know we can experience peace in the midst of conflict. We know that in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus praised peace-makers as children of God. When we launch peace initiatives we mirror God’s mind and will. We pray for peace.

- That our approach to conflict will be governed by Jesus’ attitude to peacemaking. We pray to you, Lord.
  
  **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those places in the world which are currently experiencing war at first hand. We pray to you, Lord.
  
  **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Affirmations**

- I care about others and speak up for them. In the spirit of “charity”, I will give” my voice“ for others who may not speak.

- I am honest

- I think carefully before I react or speak

- I will practice peace by refusing to participate in violence either directly or indirectly.

- I will try to stay composed no matter how agitated the people around me become. This is the “charity” and gift I will give to myself. Peace of mind will bring me peace in my heart.

**Concluding Prayer:**

*The Lord’s Prayer* (or your choice)