

# Peace

If we wish to keep peace with our neighbour, we should never remind anyone of his natural defects.

*St. Philip Neri*

Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?

*St. Gerard Majella*

Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.

Blessed be you, my God, for having created me.

*St. Clare of Assisi*

Peace is defined as harmony among those who are divided. When, therefore, we end the civil war within our nature and cultivate peace within ourselves, we become at peace.

*St Gregory of Nyssa*

Humanity should question itself, once more, about the absurd and always unfair phenomenon of war, on whose stage of death and pain only remain standing the negotiating table that could and should have prevented it.

*Pope John Paul II*

War should belong to the tragic past, to history: it should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future.

*Pope John Paul II*

Peace is not the absence of war. Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakeable faith.

*Pope John Paul II*

Lord make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

Never be in a hurry, do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.

*St. Francis de Sales*

Peace begins with a smile. *Blessed Mother Teresa*

However, peace will be but an empty-sounding word unless it is founded on the order which this present document has outlined in confident hope: an order founded on truth, built according justice, vivified and integrated by charity, and put into practice in freedom. *Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris), 1963 [# 167]*

Be good, keep your feet dry, your eyes open, your heart at peace and your soul in the joy of Christ. *Thomas Merton*

Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience. *Thomas Merton*

We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.

*Thomas Merton*

Prayers and sacrifice must be used as the most effective spiritual weapons in the war against war, and like all weapons they must be used with deliberate aim: not just with a vague aspiration for peace and security, but against violence and against war. This implies that we are also willing to sacrifice and restrain our own instinct for violence and aggressiveness in our relations with other people. We may never succeed in this campaign, but whether we succeed or not, the duty is evident. It is the great Christian task of our time. Everything else is secondary, for the survival of the human race itself depends upon it. We must at least face this responsibility and do something about it. And the first job of all is to understand the psychological forces at work in ourselves and in society. “ *Thomas Merton (Seeds)*

I have learned that an age in which politicians talk about peace is an age in which everybody expects war: the great men of the earth would not talk of peace so much if they did not secretly believe it possible, with one more war, to annihilate their enemies forever. Always, "after just one more war" it will dawn, the new era of love: but first everybody who is hated must be eliminated. For hate, you see, is the mother of their kind of love. *Thomas Merton (Seeds)*

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

*Blessed Mother Teresa*

Let's begin by establishing peace first within our hearts, and then in the hearts of others. Let's create communities and families of peace. Isn't that the responsibility of each one of us? *Jean Vanier*