

Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.
Christ our Lord,
both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
and to future generations.
Holy Spirit,
giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.
Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that
we may
together care for our common home.
Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-care-our-common-home>

Prayer for Life and Dignity

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life,
bless us with the courage to defend all life
from conception to natural death.
Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples
from east to west, from north to south,
so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-life-and-dignity>

prayer of the other

Loving God, Turn my *eyes* to the other,
that I may see each as you see me —
with an innate dignity that transcends appearances, circumstances,
class, and all earthly status, which are temporary.
Help me to see the other as Your beloved child, eternally.
Turn my *ears* to the other, that I may hear their cries as you hear mine —
with a compassion and tenderness that draws me closer in the
midst of suffering. Help me to hear the other as Your
beloved child, eternally. Turn my *mind* to the other,
that I may come to understand them as you understand me —
struggling to find meaning and wholeness in a world that's
fragmented, and your light in a world that's dimmed.
Help me to understand the other as Your beloved child, eternally.
Turn my *feet* to the other, that I may approach them across the
gaps that divide us — gaps too often widened by illusions of
family, tribe, creed, race... even otherness itself
Help me to approach the other as Your beloved child, eternally.
Turn my *hands* to the other, that I may serve them as You serve me —
with a touch that cleanses, that heals, that feeds, and that reassures.
Help me to serve the other as Your beloved child, eternally.
Turn my *heart* to the other, that I may love them as you love me —
steadfast, forgiving, ever-merciful, with patience, seeing my joy in theirs.
Help me to love the other as Your beloved child, eternally.
Loving God, Turn my *life* to the other, that I may live in solidarity with them,
and thus with You, forever. Amen

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/prayer-other>

Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice

Holy Spirit,
We praise and thank you!
You anoint us to
bring glad tidings to the poor
proclaim liberty to captives
recover sight for the blind
free the oppressed
and build communities in keeping
with God's vision of justice.
Show us how to be
light of the world
salt of the earth
seeds that sprout love
and leaven that infuses humanity
with the desire to promote
human dignity and solidarity.
Help us to listen so that
those in poverty can lead our efforts to
proclaim a more hopeful vision
liberate captives from injustice
heal the blindness of the powerful
free us all from self-centeredness
and build community to overcome poverty.
Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/help-us-build-communities-gods-vision-justice>

Because We Are Yours

**But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!"**

—Isaiah 43:1

Loving Father,
I did not know you
But I was yours.
And they do not know me
And I do not know them
But they are mine
And I am theirs.
Let no chasm, no river, no drought or storm,
No war, no exodus, no border, natural or constructed,
No device of man nor devil
Come between us
Or halt the love that burns within me,
The grace that flows from you.
Let me think on no man
unless I think joyful thoughts of brotherhood,
Let me think on no woman
unless I think tender thoughts of sisterhood,
Friend and stranger,
Ally and enemy,
Brothers,
Sisters.
They are mine
And I am theirs,
Because we are yours.

Amen

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/because-we-are-yours>

call us forth

Good Shepherd, You who rests not until each of your sheep is counted,
You have willed us to do in your name what you have done for us.

But we are reluctant, we are afraid, and we long to hear your voice.

And so we pray... *Call us forth.*

Lord, who stands amid the violence and deprivation of war...*Call us forth.*

Lord, who stands amid the rising waters of floods...*Call us forth.*

Lord, who walks upon the parched land of droughts...*Call us forth.*

Lord, who stands with the victim of every type of disaster,
remaining through every dark night, beside them till morning...*Call us forth.*

Lord, who walks the long walk with the refugee,
Calling the crude shelter in a strange land "home"...*Call us forth.*

Lord, who remains with the sick, reaches out to the crippled, comforts the dying... *Call us forth.*

Lord, who calls himself brother to the persecuted, the enslaved, the scourged and the marginalized...*Call us forth.*

As you called Peter forth from the safety of the boat, and bid him to forsake his fear
and hold fast to his faith; As you called Paul forth from the allure of worldly power,
and bid him to forsake his sin and hold fast to your truth, Call us forth to bless.

Call us forth to heal. Call us forth to speak your Word, To feed your sheep,

Into encounter,

Into solidarity,

Into love.

Call us forth from our comfort, from our indulgence, from our doubt, from our fearful
blindness, our willful deafness.

For the sake of our sisters and brothers, for the sake of our world, for the sake of Your
Kingdom, we pray...*Call us forth.*

Amen

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/call-us-forth>

Prayer for Work

Creator God,
thank you for providing us
with the gift to share our talents.
Provide our community, our nation, our world
the fortitude to provide work for all
which is decent and fair.
Make us faithful stewards
of your creation
to enhance the human dignity
of our global family.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit
now and forever.
Amen

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-work>

(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998)

"Lord God look down upon us! Look at this city . . . Look upon our families.

Lord, you were not without a job, you were a carpenter, you were happy.

Lord, we have no work.

The idols want to rob us of our dignity. The unjust systems want to rob us of hope.

Lord, do not leave us on our own. Help us to help each other; so that we forget our selfishness a

little and feel in our heart the "we", the we of a people who want to keep on going.

Lord Jesus, you were never out of work, give us work, and teach us to fight for work and bless us

all. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

- Pope Francis, [Meeting with Workers, Sept. 22, 2013](#)