

Opening Prayer: The 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.

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

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

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

A: Where there is injury, pardon;

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

A: Where there is doubt, faith;

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

A: Where there is despair, hope;

R: "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)

A: Where there is darkness, light;

R: "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)

A: And where there is sadness, joy.

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

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

R: "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)

A: To be understood as to understand;

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

A: To be loved as to love.

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

A: For it is in giving that we receive:

R: "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)

A: 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)