



CLOSING  
DOMINICAN MONTH  
FOR PEACE  
Venezuela 2021



01 de enero de 2022  
**Día internacional de la Paz**

**CLOSING OF  
THE DOMINICAN MONTH FOR PEACE 2021 VENEZUELA  
January 01, 2022**

**Prayer of the Rosary.**

Intention:

We offer this moment of prayer in the mysteries of the Rosary, asking Jesus for his peace and justice for all peoples, especially for Venezuela.

In a moment of silence we ask the Lord's forgiveness for:

- Our attitudes of injustice and those that have not built peace in our home, in our places of study and employment, in our communities, in our country and in humanity.
- We apologize for the little care we give to creation and the environment, not welcoming it with a spirit of evangelical poverty that invites us to be grateful, to value and care for goods and to be in solidarity with those most in need.
- Also because of our indifference to those who suffer and live the cross of social injustice and to the world that is exhausted and extinguished, before our passive gaze.  
(A short time of silence)



## We contemplate the mysteries: Joyful.

### First mystery: The incarnation of the Son of God.

In the first mystery, we have in mind the poorest and most excluded from society, so many families who suffer the hard time of being pushed into poverty, by structures of social injustice, where there seems to be no space for sharing, May we all experience an encounter with Jesus of Nazareth and from fraternity; may He be our hope for a life in justice.

(After enunciating each mystery, 1 Our Father, 10 Ave Maria and 1 Gloria)

### Second mystery: The visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Saint Elizabeth.

In the second mystery, we have in mind all the people who are condemned and persecuted through injustice. As we welcome Jesus of Nazareth and his message into our lives, let us hasten the step to serve the brothers in the fight for justice.

Second mystery: The visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Saint Elizabeth.

### Third mystery: The birth of the Son of God in Bethlehem.

In the third mystery, we have in mind the people who are subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment and torture, in environments that range from the home to the structures of power and governments. May God with us strengthen us in respect for others, in caring for their rights and freedom.



# We contemplate the mysteries: Joyful.



## Fourth mystery: The presentation at the temple

In the fourth mystery, we have in mind so many people who live difficult situations, of suffering, in which they discover themselves in an opaque life, without hope such as:

- In illness, especially due to COVID 19, without vital resources, which are denied due to injustice.
- Migrants and displaced for forced reasons.
- Who must cope with the lack of vital services such as water, electricity, transportation services, communication services, among others.
- The dismembered and scattered homes, which bear the weight of loneliness and the absence of loved ones.
- Children and young people forced to drop out of school and university.
- The peoples that suffer the weight of totalitarian and corrupt governments that have taken power to use it and not to serve the citizens.
- The peoples who suffer the cruelty and irrationality of war.

May God give us the grace to recognize in Him the way and the light to live from being children of a Father who loves us in brotherly love, light and life for humanity.

Fourth mystery: The presentation of Jesus, in the temple.



## We contemplate the mysteries: Joyful.



### **Fifth mystery: The child Jesus lost and found in the temple**

In the fifth mystery we have in mind all those who give their lives out of love in the service of others, in the promotion and defence of human rights, in the construction of justice, peace and the care of the environment.

We especially pray for Justice and Peace of the Order of Preachers. To ask for this is to ask for fidelity to the vocation of each brother and of our Religious Order.

We pray to the Lord for the moments in which we can lose the horizon over our Dominican life and vocation, so that the grace of his love finds us and encourages us on the path of manifesting among us the Kingdom of the Father, which is a Kingdom of love and justice.

May the OP Justice and Peace projects be guided by the Grace of the Holy Spirit and promoted by each community.



Final prayer:

## **PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

Virgin of the Rosary, mother of preachers,  
we come to you, to pray for all peoples  
we especially remember Colombia,  
Democratic Republic of Congo,  
India, Ukraine and Venezuela.  
Help us build a grounded world  
in justice, freedom and peace, in which  
we all live brotherly love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## Why is January the World Month for Peace?

After the horrors of World War II, there was a growing awareness in the world about the need for peace as a sublime and priceless good. But despite the fact that after the Second World War international organizations were created in order to preserve peace in the world, historical events continued to happen that put peace at risk. One of the most significant events was the so-called “Missile Crisis”, when on October 15, 1962, the United States discovered the medium-range ballistic missiles that the then Soviet Union had placed in Cuban Territory. At that time it was very close to a nuclear war, worse than the two world wars.

Pope Saint John XXIII was a key piece in the resolution of this conflict. As a man of faith that he was, but also as a diplomatic expert, he did everything possible so that the conflict did not go beyond a momentary crisis. On October 28, the missiles were dismantled and transferred to the Soviet Union. On Holy Thursday 1963, which that year coincided with April 11, Saint John XXIII promulgated *Pacem in terris*, an encyclical letter addressed not only to the Catholic faithful, but to all men of good will. Including these recipients, the Pope recognized that peace is the work of all. The encyclical begins like this: *Peace on earth, the supreme aspiration of all humanity throughout history, undoubtedly cannot be established or consolidated if the order established by God is not faithfully respected.*

Despite the overcoming of the Missile Crisis, peace continued to be under threat under the effects of the Cold War. On the solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord, in 1967, which coincided with March 26, Saint Paul VI promulgated the encyclical *Populorum progressio*, which establishes the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace.



A year later, on January 1, 1968, Saint Paul VI celebrates the first day of Peace and promulgates a message that begins like this: *We address ourselves to all men of good will to exhort them to celebrate "The Day of Peace" Throughout the world, on the first day of the calendar year, January 1, 1968. It would be our hope that later, each year, this celebration would be repeated as an omen and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar that measures and describes the path of the life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficial balance dominates the development of future history.* This, then, is the fundamental reason why the Church chose January 1 as the day of peace.

But, aware that peace is a world well, Saint Paul VI did not propose this day reserved for the Catholic people, but rather wanted this initiative to be welcomed by all: *The Catholic Church, with the intention of service and example, simply wants "launch the idea", with the hope that it will not only reach the widest agreement of the civil world, but that such an idea will find everywhere multiple promoters, skilled and capable of expressing itself in the 'Day of Peace', to be celebrated at the beginning of each new year, that sincere and strong character of humanity conscious and redeemed from its sad and fatal war conflicts, which knows how to give the history of the world an orderly and happier civil development.*







**SAN DOMENICO**