



Novena for Solidarity, Peace and Justice in Our Nations

DAY ONE: BRINGING GOODNESS TO FULFILLMENT

Opening Song: “World Peace Prayer”

- https://youtu.be/nxTiRnF3_lq
- Gather Hymnal #718
- Lyrics available at <https://bethanyseattle.org/w-p-prayer.txt>

Readings from *Fratelli Tutti* and the Gospel of Mark

Our own days seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise.... Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. (FT 11)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:14)

Quiet Reflection

Questions for dialog reflection:

- How might these days be a time of fulfillment? What “turn-around” (metanoia, repentance) are we invited to in the light of the signs of our times?
- How can we build goodness, love, justice and solidarity day by day?
- To what one specific action can you commit yourself today to build goodness, justice and solidarity?

Shared Prayer:

O God, merciful and strong, you crush wars and cast down the proud,

Banish violence swiftly from our midst,
Wipe away all tears,
So that we may deserve to be called your children.¹

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer from *Fratelli Tutti*

O God, Father of our human family,
You created all human beings equal in dignity:
Pour into our hearts a spirit of family
And inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
And a more dignified world,
A world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

Final Song: Repeat the chorus: Lead us from death to life, from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, Let peace fill our world, Let
peace fill our universe.

DAY TWO: SEEKING THE TRUTH TOGETHER

Opening Song: “You Are Called to Tell the Story”

- <https://youtu.be/hliQDCwpMsY>
- *Gather* Hymnal #675
- Lyrics: <http://www.pateys.nf.ca/cgi-bin/lyrics.pl?hymnnumber=583>

Readings from *Fratelli Tutti* and the Gospel of Mark

The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values. Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism...one denies the right of others to exist or have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange...debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation. (FT 15)

¹ From the liturgy in time of war or civil disturbance.

Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:21-22)

Quiet Reflection

Questions for Reflection and Dialog:

- What leads us into strategies of suspicion, relentless criticism or even ridicule?
- Where do we hear messages that counter the spread despair and discouragement?
- What is one practice to which we can commit ourselves that will promote the healthy debates that seek truth and promote the common good?

Shared Prayer:

O God, author and lover of peace, to know you is to live, to serve you is to reign;
defend those who cry to you against every attack so that we who trust in your protection
may not fear the weapons of any foe.²

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer from *Fratelli Tutti*

God and lover of us all,

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.

Repeat the last verse of the Song: “May the one whose love is broader than the measure of all space, Give us words to sing the story, Move among us in this place, Christ be known in all our living, Filling all with gifts of love.”

DAY THREE: SERVICE AND SOLIDARITY

Opening Hymn: “How Can We Be Silent?”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5OriJzAVyw>
- *Gather Hymnal* #670
- Music and lyrics, <https://hymnary.org/files/previews/221247/G6037.pdf>

² From the liturgy in time of war or civil disturbance.

Readings from *Fratelli Tutti* and the Gospel of Mark

At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the “solidity” born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service . . . and service in great part means caring for vulnerability . . . In offering such service, individuals learn to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable.... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness . . . Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people. (FT 115)

Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew . . . Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. (Mark 1:29-31)

Quiet Reflection

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- How has my sense of solidarity and my awareness of co-responsibility for the fragile grown during this time of pandemic and civil unrest?
- After Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, he accepted her service, welcoming her power to reciprocate and treating her as a co-worker for the Reign of God. In what circumstances are we concretely called to allow others to serve us even as we hope to serve them?
- What can I do today, in spite of the pandemic, to express my closeness to someone who may be experiencing fragility or isolation? What can I do today to advocate for the most vulnerable in our world?

Shared Prayer

O God, you gave one origin to all peoples and will to gather them into one family for yourself, fill all hearts with the fire of your love, and kindle in us a desire for the just advancement of our neighbors.

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer from *Fratelli Tutti*

Lord, Jesus, by identifying with the least, you became brother to us all.
Send us your Spirit to inspire that dream in each of us. (FT 287)

Closing Song: “Ven Espíritu Santo”

- <https://youtu.be/oFDBsNFmUfU>
- Come Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and defend us from evil. Promise of the Father, gift of Christ Jesus, Come give us the strength to bear our cross.

DAY FOUR: OBEDIENT TO BOLD HOPE

Opening Song: "One Lord"

- https://youtu.be/dN4QHQ_Wth4
- *Gather Hymnal #667*

Readings from *Fratelli Tutti* and the Letter to the Hebrews

I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical condition. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love . . . Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile. (FT 55)

The Holy Spirit says: *Oh, that today you would hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.* (Hebrews 3:7)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- How might the circumstances of our time actually spur us to hope and make us more aware of our thirst and aspirations, our desires for good things?
- What is the Holy Spirit saying through the signs of our times?
- What can I do today to open myself to the larger horizons and grand ideals that can make life more beautiful for everyone?
- What will we do together in the coming days to make hope more of a reality for the neediest of our neighbors, be they the lonely elderly, people who feel unheard and overlooked, even our Earth herself?

Shared Prayer

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. (*Laudato Si'*, Prayer in union with creation)

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer from *Fratelli Tutti*

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty reflected in all the peoples of the earth.
May we discover anew that all are important and all are necessary,
Different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.

Closing Song: "Send Us Your Spirit"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDHTGRb7ylg>
- Lyrics: <https://genius.com/Dan-schutte-send-us-your-spirit-lyrics>

DAY FIVE: TRANSFORMING STRUCTURES OF EXCLUSION

Opening Song: "A Place at the Table"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOahyJM7SHk>
- *Gather Hymnal* #705
- Lyrics: <https://www.hopepublishing.com/find-hymns-hw/hw342.aspx>

Readings from the Gospel of Mark and *Fratelli Tutti*

Jesus returned to Capernaum...Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them . . . he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus...they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him... "Rise, pick up your mat and walk." (Excerpted from Mark 2: 1-12)

In some monochrome economic approaches, there seems to be no place for popular movements that unite.... What is needed is a model of social, political and economic, participation that can include popular movements and invigorate...structures with that torrent of moral energy that springs from including the excluded in the building of a common destiny. (FT 169)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- What structures in our society or Church are preventing people from encountering Christ or living to the full?
- How can we still tap into the torrents of moral energy that Martin Luther King unleashed in the world?
- What structures of our own can we alter so that others can live their full potential and come into the presence of Christ?
- What can I/we do today to further dismantle one structure of exclusion?

Shared Prayer

O God, Father of our human family,
You created all human beings equal in dignity:
Pour into our hearts a spirit of family
And inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
Dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
And a more dignified world,
A world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer: Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice

and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

Closing Prayer and Song: “Lift Every Voice”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8pGp7N9bG8> (with an explanation) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyZkRgQ4ZnQ>
- *Lead Me, Guide Me*, # 291
- Lyrics: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46549/lift-every-voice-and-sing>

DAY SIX: A HEART THAT JUDGES NO ONE

Opening Song: “Give Me a Clean Heart”

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot_sQIPaB0s
- Lyrics: <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/shirleycaesar/givemeacleanheart.html>

Readings from the Gospel of Mark and *Fratelli Tutti*

Jesus was passing by and saw Levi...sitting at the customs post. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed Jesus. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples.... Some saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus heard this and said to them, “Those who are well do not need a physician.... I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Excerpted from Mark 2:13-17)

People can develop certain habits that might appear as moral values: fortitude, sobriety, hard work and similar virtues. Yet if the acts of the various moral virtues are to be rightly directed, one needs to take into account the extent to which they foster openness and union with others.... The spiritual stature of a person’s life is measured by love, which in the end remains “the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life’s worth or lack thereof. Yet some believers think that it consists in the imposition of their own ideologies upon everyone else, or in a violent defense of the truth, or in impressive demonstrations of strength. All us, as believers need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love. (FT 91-92)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- How have we/I been complicit in fomenting divisions rooted in judgmental attitudes about people who think or believe differently from ourselves?
- In relationship to what person, group, or cause am I called to exercise Maxim # 52 and interpret all they say and do from the best possible point of view?
- What will I/we do in these coming days to create safe, welcoming space for someone who feels rejected on the basis of her/his background, beliefs, opinions or other status symbol?

Shared Prayer

O God, Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of familial love. Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus . . . Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognizing him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world and risen in each brother or sister who makes a new start.

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer: O God, you who are perfect unity and charity, lead us to become of one heart and one mind that your people may flourish in harmony and be made strong in enduring unity.³

Closing Song: “Danos Un Corazón”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtN2eaNP4qk>
- Interpretation of the lyrics: Give us a heart big enough to love, give us a heart strong enough to go through the struggle. New women, creating history, architects of a new humanity, new women whose love knows no borders, new women who risk their lives on the long journey.

DAY SEVEN: ENCOUNTER

Opening Song: “In Christ There is No East or West”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKL45zleRbU>
- *Gather* Hymnal #726
- Lyrics: <http://www.pateys.nf.ca/cgi-bin/lyrics.pl?hymnnumber=480>

Readings from the Gospel of John and *Fratelli Tutti*

John was standing with two of his disciples.... Jesus walked by. John said, “Behold the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi...where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” (John 1: 35-39)

A culture of encounter means that we as a people should be passionate about meeting others . . . building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone. . . Integrating differences is a . . . difficult and slow process. . . What is important is to create *processes* of encounter . . . This calls for the ability to recognize other people’s right to be themselves and to be different. (FT 216-219)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- When we think of our world’s future, what is it we are looking for?

³ From the liturgy for promoting harmony.

- When have you been involved in a process of encounter? What did you learn?
- John's disciples had to leave him to follow Jesus. What do we need to leave in order to enter more deeply into encounter and be faithful disciples of Christ in today's world?

Shared Prayer

God and lover of us all,

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. (FT)

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe . . .

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love . . .

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters . . .

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

To recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature

As we journey towards your infinite light. (*Laudato Si*)

Closing Song: "Vos Sos el Dios de los Pobres"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTvFlsDtKYU>
- Lyrics: <https://www.musixmatch.com/lyrics/Carlos-Mejia-Godoy/Canto-de-entrada/translation/english>

DAY EIGHT: NEW WINESKINS—NEW STYLE OF LIFE

Opening Song: "Canticle of the Turning"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9QeTmRCpW4>
- *Gather Hymnal #527*
- Lyrics: <https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/misc-praise-songs/canticle-of-the-turning-chords-904906>

Readings from the Gospel of Mark and *Fratelli Tutti*

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If she does, its fullness pulls away the new from the old and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather new wine is poured into fresh wineskins. (Mark 2: 21-22)

Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of “them” and “those,” but only of “us.” If only this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing. . . . If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might rediscover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth, with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the walls that we have erected. (FT 35)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- How has the Spirit spoken through the societal crises of this year?
- What kind of rebirth is being called forth in our nations and world?
- How has the pandemic enabled us to take a step forward towards a new style of life?
- What can I/we do this week and this year to promote that new style of life for those close to us and those with whom we disagree?

Shared Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty reflected in all the peoples of the earth.

Lead us to discover anew that all are important and all are necessary.

Help us to love and reverence the different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer: May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.

Closing Song: “Dame Señor, Tu Mirada”

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l_q1Ib0T20
- (Interpretation of the lyrics: Give me, Lord, your vision, let me thus gaze on the day’s beginning, the sun warming and covering the mountains . . . the day as it ends and announces the moon of April . . .

Chorus: Lord, give me/us your vision, tattoo it on my heart, where you are loving, faithful, always with us, creating.

Give me, Lord, your vision, a spirit of compassion, strengthen my steps, dwell in me and be my song. . . . Make my hands gentle, my womb mature,

Give me, Lord, vision of others, hidden ones whose hands are tied, who are silenced. Plant your vision, Lord, so that a new song will rise from open people with free hands and unlimited voice.)

DAY NINE: THE ONE LAW

Opening Song: “Lead Me, Guide Me”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3cX3LyIX8w>
- *Lead Me, Guide Me* #168
- Lyrics: <http://www.allgospellyrics.com/?sec=listing&lyricid=3916>

Readings from the Gospel of Mark and *Fratelli Tutti*

Jesus said: The sabbath was made for human beings, they were not made for the sabbath.
(Mark 2:27)

Jesus summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in ***a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good*** and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals. By his actions, the Good Samaritan showed that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to that of others: life is not simply time that passes; life is a time for interactions.
(FT 66)

Questions for Reflection and Dialog

- How might our own laws or customs seem designed to make people conform to predetermined or narrow patterns rather than promote human thriving?
- When have I felt a conflict between my preference or plan and the common good?
- What am I/we called do in the coming days and years to *direct society to the pursuit of the common good*?
- To what will I commit myself now?

Shared Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty reflected in all the peoples of the earth so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.

For what else shall we pray together today? (Time for shared prayers of petition)

Closing Prayer: May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams. Amen.

Closing Song: “City of God”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zRAUH8yBcQ>
- *Gather Hymnal* #663
- Lyrics: <https://genius.com/Dan-schutte-city-of-god-lyrics>