

**Advent Peace Prayer**

December 19, 2017

Leader: As we begin this third week in Advent, we continue to pray for peace with justice for the people of Colombia. After 50 years of armed conflict and countless failed negotiations, Colombia has now entered a key period of its history: the implementation of the Peace Accord, which was signed in 2016 by the National Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The Peace Accord does not solve all the problems, but it does create a favorable environment and establishes possibilities of participation. The local communities will play a vital role in initiating the transformation and conversion that Pope Francis has identified as essential to bringing about lasting peace. And so we pray in solidarity with the people of Colombia and the whole Dominican Family for peace.

Chant: O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel. (5 times)

Leader: Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

(5 minutes for silent reflection)

Chant: O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel. (5 times)

Leader: The Peace Education Foundation that has been supported by our Ministry Trust has been integral to the peace process in Colombia. If the Peace Accord is to be successfully implemented and if peace with justice is to become a reality in Colombia, all the people in the local communities have to be engaged.

The Medellín Workshop that is being organized for the coming year will provide a process for children and adults to be educated in the dynamics of conflict skills of peacemaking in homes, schools and communities. The purpose of this experiential workshop is to teach, understand and become a multiplier of techniques for:

- Community Building
- Understanding Conflict
- Role of Perception in Conflict
- Anger Management and other feelings
- Rules for Social Conviviality
- Effective Communication

This work and the continued efforts in peacemaking among our Dominican brothers and sisters in the local communities are important and have enormous impact on the implementation of the Peace Accord. In promoting a culture of peace and by creating an infrastructure for peace, these men and women have become the sowers of peace in Colombia.



(5 minutes for silent reflection)

Chant: O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel. (5 times)

Leader: Intercessions

Response: Come Jesus, Come

We pray for the people of Colombia that they will experience the peace that surpasses all expectation,
We pray ...

We pray that God continues to bring Good News to the poor and healing to the broken hearted. We
pray ...

We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace and Savior of the world, will enable a true conversion of heart of
those who are in need of conversion, especially FARC and paramilitary of Colombia. We pray ...

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us ask our God to make Peace and Justice reign in
Colombia and in the world as we pray together the
Prayer adapted from the Colombian Bishops'
Conference prayer by CAFOD:

Father, you are an ocean of peace
and you grant us this gift through your Son Jesus Christ
and the action of the Holy Spirit.

You sow it in our hearts through conversion and reconciliation.
You entrust us with peace,
making it our responsibility,
converting us into builders of peace,
so that we build it with
"passion, patience, experience and determination."

Walk with us as we act upon our responsibilities
in our social, political, economic, cultural and church lives.
Help us to spread respect for life, people and creation;
may we live in solidarity,
may we be brotherly and sisterly, and just,
and may we work for the common good.

Amen.

Adapted from Colombian Bishops' Conference prayer by CAFOD

As we take leave, let us offer one another a sign of peace.