



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity June 15, 2014

Pastor's Column

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The Children of Abraham

Last month when Pope Francis was in the Holy Land, he invited the Presidents of Israel and Palestine to come to the Vatican to pray for peace.



*President Abbas, Pope Francis,
President Perez, and Patriarch Bartholomew*

This meeting took place in the Vatican last Sunday, on the Feast of Pentecost.

President Shimon Perez of Israel and President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine came together with Pope Francis to pray and to talk about peace in the Middle East.

Pope Francis also invited Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodox Christians. He too was in attendance for this historic prayer gathering.

Here is the prayer of Pope Francis:

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" "With war everything is lost." Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flames of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred," and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother," and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

May every day be a day in which we say a prayer for peace!

Fr. Mike