

INTERCESSIONS

*Intercession from Prayer with Pope for the Peace in South Sudan and
Republic Democratic of Congo on November 23rd 2017*

Help us Jesus to be genuinely converted to your way so that we authentically witness to the peace that you instil in our hearts.

Help us Lord to set aside all that divides us – tribalism, politics, and hate, prejudices – in order to live in love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters.

For the women and the girls who have to put up with various hardships: May the Lord strengthen them to continue assisting their families improve their quality of life.

We pray for all the Christians: May the Lord grant us the grace to be attentive and effective in love, with concrete actions, which correspond to the genuine needs of our brothers and sisters.

We Pray for the rulers, as well as all armed groups engaged in the war, so that the strength of the Spirit of God helps them to convert, to deal with the interests of the people, and accept the path of dialogue, and so put an end to the war, with a view to lasting peace.

We pray for the conversion of our hearts. May the Lord inspire those holding responsibilities at the international level to become heralds of peace.

We pray for all the people who represent the crucified body of Christ: Sustained by strong faith may they be able to suffer with courage and confidence in the hope that love always triumphs over violence and hatred.

We pray for all of us present here: Gazing at Jesus our model, may we experience the glory of his resurrection in the apparent folly of the cross.

We pray for the rulers of South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo that they may work together for peace and common good in their respective countries.

We pray for the Church in these countries. May the different initiatives of peace and development bear lasting fruits of reconciliation, justice and peace.



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Intercession from Pope Francis's Homily on November 23rd 2017

Without you, Lord, our prayer would be in vain, and our hope for peace an illusion. But you are alive. You are at work for us and with us. You are our peace!

May the risen Lord break down the walls of hostility that today divide brothers and sisters, especially in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

May he comfort those women who are the victims of violence in war zones and throughout the world.

May he protect children who suffer from conflicts in which they have no part, but which rob them of their childhood and at times of life itself. How hypocritical it is to deny the mass murder of women and children! Here war shows its most horrid face.

May the Lord help all the little ones and the poor of our world to continue to believe and trust that the kingdom of God is at hand, in our midst, and is "justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14:17). May he sustain all those who day by day strive to combat evil with good, and with words and deeds of fraternity, respect, encounter and solidarity.

May the Lord strengthen in government officials and all leaders a spirit which is noble, upright, steadfast and courageous in seeking peace through dialogue and negotiation.

May the Lord enable all of us to be peacemakers wherever we find ourselves, in our families, in school, at work, in the community, in every setting. "Let us wash the feet" of one another, in imitation of our Master and Lord. To him be glory and praise, now and forever.

Amen.



Pope Francis celebrates a prayer for peace in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, inside St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017. (Credit: Gregorio Borgia/AP.)