

REFERENCE SHEET

Praying 'Pacem in Terris'

"Peace will be an empty sounding work unless it is founded on TRUTH, built according to JUSTICE, vivified and integrated by CHARITY, and put into practice in FREEDOM." (#167)

Founded on TRUTH:

- ~ God is our first and greatest Truth. (pgh. 45)
 - ~ In wisdom, God created diversity and variety. (pgh. 3)
 - ~ A community comprised of all peoples is urgently demanded today by the requirements of the universal common good. (pgh. 7)
 - ~ There is a truth to be discovered in deriving genuine pleasure from each other's cultural heritage as well as the willingness to share one's own cultural and racial richness. (pgh. 36)
 - ~ Racial discrimination can in no way be justified and every trace of racism must be eliminated. (pgh. 44, 86)
 - ~ No one can be superior to another since all enjoy an equal natural dignity. (pgh. 89)
 - ~ All information that falls short of truth and impairs the reputation of a people must be discarded. (pgh. 90)
 - ~ The arms race should cease, stockpiles should be reduced, nuclear weapons banned and an effective method of control should be drawn up and mutually agreed upon. (pgh. 112)
 - ~ True and solid peace consists not in equality of arms but in mutual trust alone. (pgh. 113)
 - ~ Disputes that arise should not be resolved by recourse to arms, but rather by negotiations. (pgh. 126)
 - ~ There can be no peace among people unless there is peace within each one of them. (pgh. 165)
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Built according to JUSTICE:

- ~ Freedom is greater than any violence or injustice. (pgh. 14)
 - ~ Women will not tolerate being treated as mere material instruments, but demand rights befitting a human person both in domestic and public life. (pgh. 41)
 - ~ Considerations of justice and equity must focus on the less fortunate members of the community, since they are less able to defend their rights and to assert their legitimate claims. (pgh. 56)
 - ~ No person will be without the necessary means to a decent standard of living. (pgh. 64)
 - ~ Relations between nations are to be further regulated by justice. (pgh. 80)
 - ~ Justice is seriously violated by whatever is done to limit the strength and numerical increase of lesser peoples; the injustice is even more serious if vicious attempts of this kind are aimed at the very extinction of these groups. (pgh. 95)
 - ~ Refugees hide numberless and acute suffering and their coming to another country should not increase that suffering. (pgh. 103)
 - ~ The desire to forward a good cause is not enough, it is necessary to take an active part in the various organizations and influence them from within. (pgh. 147)
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Vivified and Integrated by CHARITY:

- ~ In solidarity and in Christian charity, we must make the migration of persons from one country to another less painful. (pgh. 107)
 - ~ In discovering bonds that unite us, it should be love and not fear that wishes to express itself in collaboration with others. (pgh. 129)
 - ~ Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light, a center of love, and a vivifying leaven. (pgh 164)
 - ~ Souls are to be allowed to breathe humanly. (pgn. 104)
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Put into practice in FREEDOM:

- ~ Relationships cannot be bound together by force. (pgh. 4)
- ~ People must go about their work without coercion. (pgh. 18)
- ~ All organizations must be considered the indispensable means to safeguard the dignity and freedom of the human person while leaving intact a sense of responsibility. (pgh. 24)
- ~ Any society that is established on relations of force must be regarded as inhuman, since the personality of its members is repressed or restricted. (pgh 34)
- ~ In many human beings the inferiority endured for hundreds and thousands of years is disappearing, while in others there is a gradual fading of the corresponding superiority which has its roots in social-economic privileges. (pgh. 43)
- ~ No country may unjustly oppress others or unduly meddle in their affairs. (pgh. 120)

We pray together: (pgh. 171)

As members of Pax Christi USA, Holy One, we pray: banish from our hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Transform us into witnesses of truth, justice and love.

Enlighten leaders of nations so that they may, in addition to caring for the welfare of their citizens, also defend and guarantee the great gift of peace. May they overcome barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual love, understand others and pardon those who have done them wrong.

May all people of the earth come together as brothers and sisters, and may the most longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among us. AMEN

