

# Global Rosary for World Peace Prayer Event

Congregation of Holy Cross  
in collaboration with  
Holy Cross Family Ministries

**February 16, 2024**





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## Call to Pray for Peace

Almost 175 years ago, Blessed Basile Moreau, the Founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, who suffered through the aftermath of the French Revolution, wrote in a letter to his religious, "Let us unite and pray fervently to obtain of Jesus Christ through Mary that God may deign to shorten the time of trial we are especially facing now."

As the global Family of Holy Cross, we unite our hearts and prayers, in the spirit of Father Moreau, so that God may shorten this time of trial, violence and war in our world, for as Venerable Patrick Peyton said, "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

In our prayer, we turn to our Holy Cross Patroness, Our Lady of Sorrows, to seek her intercession to ensure a future of peace. Mary knew intimately both sorrow and suffering in her life. As the Mother of us all, she suffers with us, especially, with those victims of war and violence.

Through her intercession, as we reflect on the sorrows of our war-torn world, we hope that Mary will be Our Lady of Hope, helping us to be peacemakers, men, and women with hope to bring in our world today, so that there may be an end to all violence and war.



*Blessed Basile Moreau*

## Holy Cross and Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows extends back at least to the 13th century and was fostered by the Servites in Italy. Originally, more than seven sorrows were part of the devotion, but eventually the seven recognized today were settled upon. In 1814, Pope Pius VII established the Friday before Holy Week as the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows for the Universal Church. Early in the 20th century, Pope Pius X designated September 15 as the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The neighborhood of Saint Croix, just outside of Le Mans, where Blessed Basile Moreau founded the Congregation of Holy Cross in the 1830s, had long been dedicated to Mary under the title of Notre Dame de Sainte Croix. Usually, Notre Dame de Sainte Croix was depicted in the Pietà, and so she was also understood to be Mary of the Seven Sorrows as the Pietà represented all her seven sorrows.

It is not known precisely when Blessed Basile Moreau became familiar with the rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows, though his devotion to Mary was nurtured by his mother. His attraction to Our Lady of Sorrows was rooted in her close association with the passion and death of Jesus.

The 1920 General Chapter of the Congregation of Holy Cross designated Our Lady of Sorrows as the Congregation's patroness.

In the words of the current *Constitutions* of Holy Cross: "There stood by the cross of Jesus his mother Mary, who knew grief and was a Lady of Sorrows. She is our special patroness, a woman who bore much she could not understand and who stood fast. To her many sons and daughters, whose devotions ought to bring them often to her side, she tells much of this daily cross and its daily hope" (8:120).



*Br. Joel Giallanza, C.S.C., a Moreau historian, prepared this information on the connection between Our Lady of Sorrows and the Congregation of Holy Cross.*

# How to Pray the Seven Sorrows of Mary Rosary

## *Introductory Prayers*

### **Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Opening Prayer**

*The following is the traditional opening prayer, which has been changed for the Global Rosary for World Peace Prayer Event.*

My God, I offer You this Rosary for Your glory, so I can honor Your Holy Mother, the Blessed Virgin, so I can share and meditate upon her suffering. I humbly beg You to give me true repentance for all my sins. Give me wisdom and humility, so that I may receive all the indulgences contained in this prayer.

### **Act of Contrition**

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend You, my God. You Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

### **Three Hail Mary's**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Response**

Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

## *Seven Sorrows of Mary*

1. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (**Luke 2:34-35**)
2. The Flight into Egypt with Jesus (**Matthew 2:13-14**)
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus (**Luke 2:43-45**)
4. The Encounter with Jesus on the Way to Calvary (**Luke 23:27-29**)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (**John 19:25-30**)
6. The Cradling of Jesus' Body in Her Arms (**John 19:32-34**)
7. The Laying of Jesus in the Tomb (**John 19:41-42**)

*For each of the seven sorrows, the following prayers are said. The Scripture passages can also be read at the beginning of the sorrow, and in some versions, there is a particular prayer to conclude each sorrow.*

**One Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Three Hail Mary's**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Response**

Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

## *Closing Prayers*

**Closing Prayer**

*The following is the traditional closing prayer, which has been changed for the Global Rosary for World Peace Prayer Event.*

Queen of Martyrs, your heart suffered so much. I beg you, by the merits of the tears you shed in these terrible and sorrowful times, to obtain for me and all the sinners of the world the grace of complete sincerity and repentance. Amen.

**Response**

Mary, who was conceived without sin and who suffered for us, pray for us. (3x)

**Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.





# Global Rosary for World Peace Prayer Event

## OPENING PRAYERS

*Rome, Italy*

*Make the Sign of the Cross (see page 3)*

Lord God, we invoke the intercession of our Mother Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, for an end to war and violence in our world. We are weighed down by war's destruction, suffering, and death. As we come to Mary's side to meditate on the sorrows of her life and the sorrows of our war-torn world today, we ask that she may help us find hope in the midst of these terrible crosses. Hearing our cries, and those of His own Mother, may Jesus, the Prince of Peace, grant us that peace that only He can give, so that as swords are beat into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks, Your Kingdom of peace and justice and love may reign in our world now, and for forever. Amen.

*Recite the Act of Contrition (see page 3)*

*Pray 3 Hail Mary's (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## **FIRST SORROW: THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

*Australia, Bangladesh & Philippines*

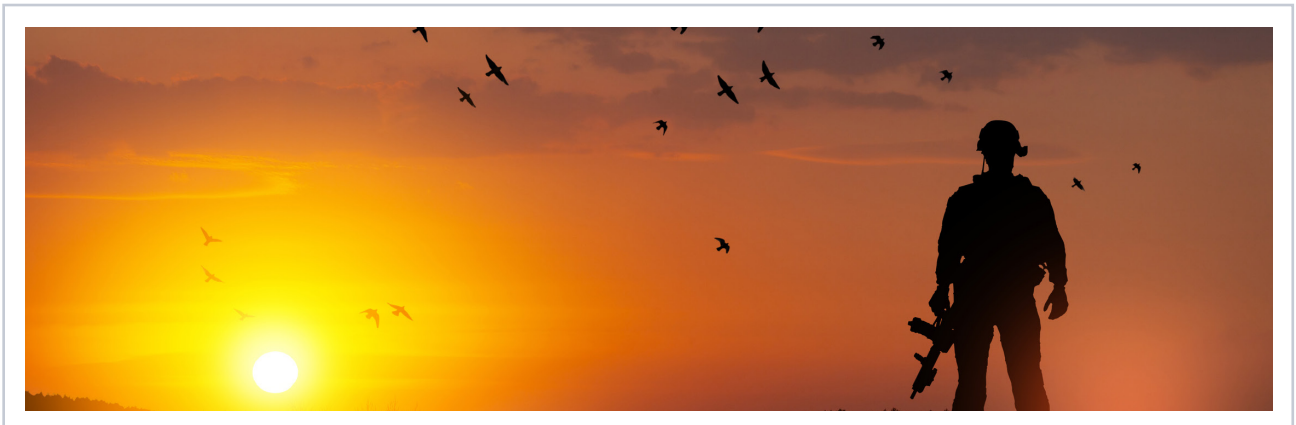
*“Mary, whom God willed to be in all things like her Son, had to see always before her eyes and to continually suffer the torments that lay ahead—the sufferings of the Passion and death of her beloved Jesus.” — Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for those whose lives have been turned upside down by war’s destruction and who now have to live daily with constant uncertainty, insecurity, and anxiety.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary’s (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## **SECOND SORROW: THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT WITH JESUS**

*Ghana, Brazil & Peru*

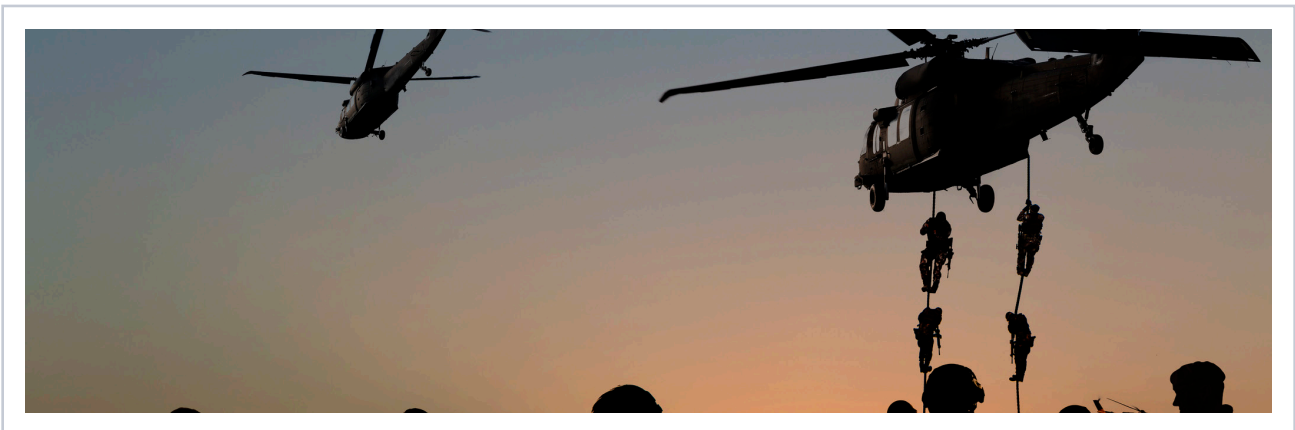
*“As for our Savior Himself ... He willed to be the consolation of all exiles by experiencing in His own Person the pain of exile and the eating of the bread of strangers. What a mystery of abasement!”  
— Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for all who have lost their homes in war and for the millions of refugees around the world facing an unknown future as they flee with their families from bloodshed and violence.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary's (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





### **THIRD SORROW: THE LOSS OF THE CHILD JESUS**

*France, Mexico & Ireland*

*“... Our Lady came to know only through experience the bitterness of the grief caused by bodily separation from her Son. It was through the desolation and abandonment that were part of the work of redemption that she accomplished more fully her mission ...” — Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for these families with missing loved ones, that they may find comfort and consolation as they cling to hope in their painful, watchful waiting.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary's (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## **FOURTH SORROW: THE ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS ON THE WAY TO CALVARY**

*Tanzania, Haiti & Uganda*

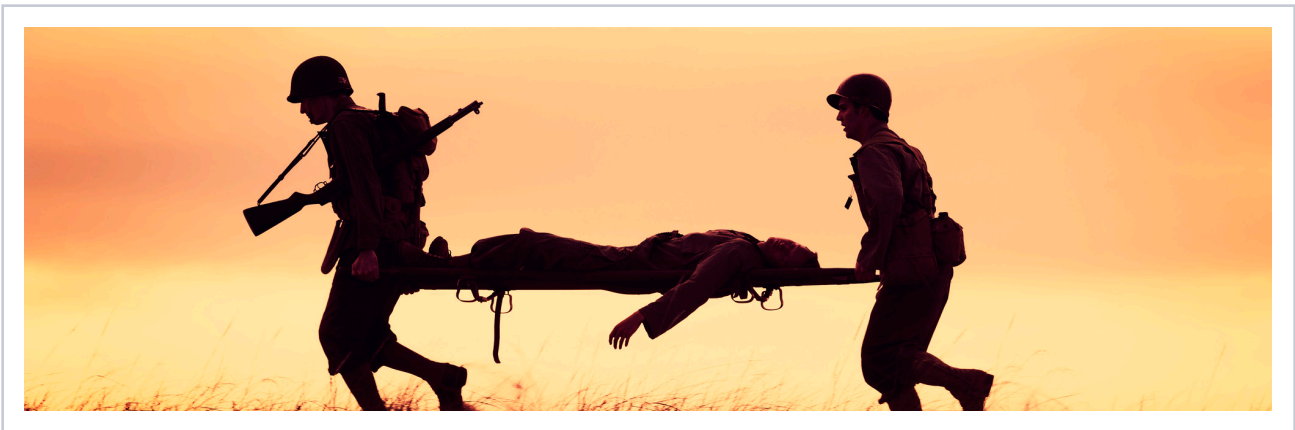
*“We should reflect deeply upon the silent strength of Our Lady in this dolor and upon her offering of herself in union with Christ’s offering. Surely the loving union of her will with His must have been a comforting help to Jesus, while for her it could only have been agony.” — Blessed Basile Moreau*

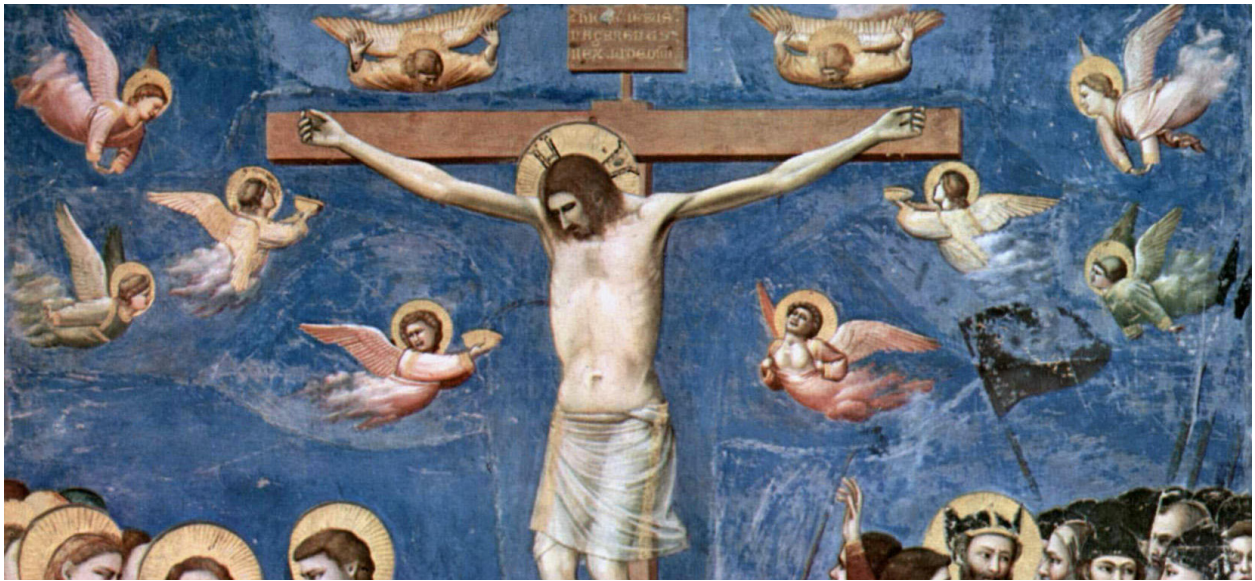
Let us pray for all innocent victims in war who are unjustly treated or condemned because of their beliefs or for who they are.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary’s (see page 4)*

V. Most Merciful Mother,

R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.





## **FIFTH SORROW: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS**

*United States, Chile & India*

*“Mary’s heart was torn by two conflicting agonies; on the one hand, there was her longing to save Jesus from His intolerable suffering; on the other, was her knowledge that she must help him finish His work, the work of our salvation.” — Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for all of those who suffer the trauma of watching and facing death daily by tending to the injured and dying victims of war.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary’s (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## **SIXTH SORROW: THE CRADLING OF JESUS' BODY IN HER ARMS**

*Kenya, Philippines & Canada*

*"Mary at last could embrace her Son and in the embrace renew all the lovely memories of His childhood, but her pain became thereby only the sharper ... She contemplated the cruel ravages of the Passion ... by following upon the body of Jesus the dreadful traces it had left."*

*— Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for all parents who suffer the devastation and grief of losing their child to war's cruel brutality.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary's (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## **SEVENTH SORROW: THE LAYING OF JESUS IN THE TOMB**

*Bangladesh, Peru & United States*

*"It was a new sorrow for our Lady to have to leave Jesus, and yet even now, after her long agony there was no weakening in her." — Blessed Basile Moreau*

Let us pray for all the deceased victims of war and for their surviving families who now must live with death's mournful shadow.

*Pray 1 Our Father and 7 Hail Mary's (see page 4)*

*V. Most Merciful Mother,*

*R. Remind us always about the Sorrows of your Son, Jesus.*





## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

*North Easton, United States*

Mother Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, you have stood with us today at the foot of the crosses of our war-torn world. Your presence with us has taught us once again how even the Cross can be borne as a gift because all the destruction, pain, suffering, and death—is ultimately swallowed up in the victory of your Son, Jesus. Confident again that God so loves this world, please continue to journey with us so that we may be peacemakers, trusting that no matter how dark it may seem, all things are possible with God—even a world of justice and peace. Amen.

V. Mary, who was conceived without sin and who suffered for us, pray for us.

R. *In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*



## **“A World at Prayer is a World at Peace”**

*Venerable Patrick Peyton*

Holy Cross priest and sainthood candidate, Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., 1909-1992, was a prominent promoter of peace. His messages, **“The Family That Prays Together Stays Together”** and **“A World at Prayer is a World at Peace”** are still recognized around the world because they resonate with all people and cultures.

Father Peyton was confident that family prayer would lead to peace in the home, and peace in homes would lead to peace in the world. He was so certain of it, he dedicated his 51 years of priesthood to it. He went home to God in 1992 and the ministry he founded, Holy Cross Family Ministries, continues to encourage the world with prayer resources, programs, events, and media.

To learn more about Venerable Patrick Peyton and the Father Peyton Prayer Guild, please visit: **FatherPeyton.org**

Please join us in praying for Venerable Patrick Peyton’s eventual canonization so he can inspire future generations by being declared the “Saint for Family Prayer.”



# Prayer for The Beatification of Venerable Patrick Peyton

Dear Jesus,  
Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary.  
His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth.

We beg You, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that *The Family That Prays Together Stays Together*, will imitate him in his devotion to Your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to You with childlike confidence and love.  
Amen.

*Imprimatur: Most Reverend George W. Coleman  
Bishop of Fall River, April 21, 2005*



**PRAY**

**A world at prayer is a world at peace**



**HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES**