

Assisi, 18th March 2022

PRAYER FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE

by Margaret Karram, President of the Focolare Movement, St Francis Cathedral - Assisi

Today, the 18th of March 2022, in front of the tomb of Saint Francis, an example of the fraternity of the whole human race, we, the members of the General Council of the Focolare Movement, gathered in Assisi,

plead for the gift of PEACE!

We are here on behalf of all the members of the Movement: Christians of various Churches, believers of various religions, people who consider themselves as brothers and sisters in one human family.

We make our own the cry of pain and the despair of peoples who are currently suffering because of violence, conflicts, and wars, and we turn to You, Father of all, in prayer:

Lord God, the God of Peace, you who love each person with eternal and unconditional love, give us the grace to see Your face in every person we meet and help us pull down the walls of hostility, hatred, and destruction.

We ask you, with untiring faith, for the gift of Peace

PEACE in the heart of every person,
especially in the hearts of those who govern peoples.
PEACE between groups, ethnicities, and nations.

**We ask you especially, with the faith that moves mountains,
that there be a ceasefire in the war, and that dialogue will be victorious 'in seeking the paths to
peace' between Russia and Ukraine.**

**We ask for the grace that every ongoing conflict,
especially the most forgotten ones, can end.**

Lord, our God,
grant us the grace to welcome one another,
to forgive one another and live as one human family.

Open our hearts and minds
to the needs of our brothers and sisters,
to their concerns and sufferings.

**Grant that we may love other people's countries as our own!
God of mercy and harmony, make us "instruments of Your peace."**

Yours be the praise and the glory,
now and for ever.
Amen