

**CHILDREN'S REFLECTIONS on the
PRAYER REQUESTS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

July 2009

Main Prayer Request

Pray that Christians in the Middle East may live their faith in freedom and peace.



The Pope is unhappy that many Christians are leaving the Holy Land. The Holy Land is the country of Israel, where Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose from the dead.

Why are Christians leaving the Holy Land? They are looking for jobs, freedom, and peace. They want to get away from war and danger. The Pope understands why they are leaving, but he also knows they are needed to help the country find true peace. Jesus was the Prince of Peace, so Christians also are called to make peace wherever they are.

We Christians are at peace because God has forgiven us all our sins. That makes us children of God. As God's children we forgive others. We love others, even those who hurt us.

We are one with the Christians in the Holy Land. We pray that they may be safe as they live out the love of God for others.

Reflection:

How can you make peace in your own life?

Reading:

Matthew 13:33 "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixed with flour until the whole batch raised."

Mission Prayer Request

Pray that all who believe in Jesus Christ may invite others to join God's family.

The Holy Father wants all people to be one with God and one with one another. We are all God's creatures. We are all one family. The Pope wants us to tell others the Good News that God loves us all. This is the work of his people, the Church - to tell the Good News.

How will others know of the love of God unless we tell them? And how do we tell them? We ourselves must love God and know we are loved by God. With the love of God inside of us, we can do anything. If we Christians truly love one another, people who do not yet know about the love of God will see our love and believe. So from us they will hear about the love of God, and they will see us living that love.

If we Christians do not love each other, others will not believe God is with us. So we must unite in love. We must ask God for love for each other and for everyone in the world. This is the most important thing. It's the whole reason we are here.

Reflection:

How can you show your love for another person?

Reading:

Matthew 13:23 "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who understands the word, grows strong, and bears fruit."



Daily Offering Prayer for Children

Heavenly Father,
I offer you this day
All that I think and do and say,
Uniting it with what was done
By Jesus Christ, your only Son.
Amen.

Prayer of the Month



Oh Lord Jesus Christ, make your love strong in your people in the Holy Land. May they live in your promise: "Peace I leave with you: My peace I give you." We pray for peace in the Middle East, healing for the wounded and broken hearted, and dignity for all. Amen.

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