

Week of Prayer for Restorative Justice

November 21-28, 2021

Ricardo Mejico wrote: "I had not understood that the purpose of a candle of hope is not to overcome the darkness, but to be a sign that the darkness will not defeat me." We gather here today to light some candles of hope and ask our God that those glowing lights continue to illuminate us.

Based on the Saint Francis Prayer, let us pray:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, I sow love

God of love, we meet with hearts that are heavy but still hopeful. We ask you to alleviate the grief of those who suffer the premature loss of a loved one. Nothing will be able to fill the void that we feel in our hearts because of such loss. Help us walk the path that leads to healing and peace again.

Where there is injury, I sow forgiveness

Compassionate God, help us today to reach out to those who most need a helping hand. We recognize that You created us as one family, walking through life together. Help us to support each other, especially when a member of our family suffers or is in distress.

Where there is doubt, I sow faith

God of justice, give us legislators who have the courage to enact laws that truly restore our communities, heal our divisions, stop neighborhood violence, and produce communities where everyone is respected and where no one has to live in fear.

Where there is despair, I sow hope

God of courage and strength, help us to defend the rights of those who need a stronger voice that speaks on their behalf. Help us work together to ensure that the rights of victims are upheld by the laws of our State and our country. Help us ensure that all benefits from the Victim Redress Fund are used for designated purposes. Allow us to transmit hope to each other, as we walk together towards the goals we share.

Where there is sadness, I sow joy

God of goodness and comfort, although we are all members of your family, we have hurt and caused each other sadness. Don't let sadness get the better of us. Help us find joy when we live together and work together to create a world like the one you created for us.

Where there is darkness, I carry your light

God of light and life, help us dedicate ourselves to ensuring that no one else loses a loved one to violence. Help us to become people in favor of life, not death; a people of light, not of darkness; a people who seek to rehabilitate, not to practice revenge; a single family united to ensure there are no more victims.

Allow those candles of hope to burn in the hearts of each of us. And united, as one family, we can dispel the darkness that surrounds us.