

Dear Saint Cyril Families:

It is a sad day for the United States of America. The events that unfolded today in Washington D.C. are contrary to everything this nation stands for and represent a clear and present danger to the constitutional order of our country. This attempt to disrupt and destroy the democratic process should be repugnant to the hearts of all Americans and must be denounced in the strongest possible terms! Regardless of our political views or party affiliations, we must reject violence, division, and hatred as a means of resolving conflict or disagreement. The only path forward is for us to set aside our differences in order to seek common ground, work for the common good, and strive to form a more peaceful and just society.

The hard work of peace begins in our own hearts. Let us repent for the times when our words and actions have sown seeds of division and let us ask the Lord to forgive us for the times when we have failed to be peacemakers in our families and our communities.

As we pray ever more fervently for peace and for healing of the divisions that are tearing apart the fabric of our nation let us turn for solace to the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis from his Invocation for Peace from 2014:

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

- Pope Francis, Invocation for Peace, 6/4/14

Used with Permission. © LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA

As we mourn this shameful episode in our nation's history let us seek the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Patroness of America, placing ourselves under her maternal protection, and let us entrust ourselves and our nation to her Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Father Mac