

# **In Response to Week of Violence, Knights of Columbus Urges Prayers for Healing**

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*St. Francis' Prayer of Peace suggested as commitment to peace and forgiveness*

(NEW HAVEN, Conn.) – Following a week of violence across the United States, the Knights of Columbus has called for a novena of prayer to heal the wounds and divisions afflicting this country.

Knights and their families, and all people of good will are encouraged to join in the novena (nine days of prayer) that will run from July 14-22 by praying St. Francis of Assisi's Prayer for Peace:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

"The violent episodes of the past week have shocked the conscience of our country," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "Through this prayer, each of us has the

opportunity to help transcend hatred and violence by personally committing to the concepts of love of neighbor, peace and forgiveness that are central to an authentic embrace of Christianity. It is our hope that, from coast to coast, those who pray this prayer will become true instruments of peace.”

Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, also urged people to join this prayer campaign: “During this Year of Mercy, let us pray for an end to violence and senseless killings,” he said. “Through our prayers and good works, may we help build a society that is merciful, just, and peaceful.”

Founded in 1882 in New Haven, Conn. by the Venerable Servant of God Fr. Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic fraternal group with nearly two million members worldwide.