

**Lent, 2005 The Millennium Beatitudes**  
*(based on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations)*

*Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*

**Blessed are those whose hunger for food is no longer; blessed are those who have a home, a place to be in body and spirit where neither is under threat—for they will finally be filled and satisfied;**

*Achieve universal primary education*

**Blessed are those who strive to learn—for wonder and music, poetry and glorious dreams, shall fill their lives;**

*Promote gender equality and empower women*

**Blessed are those who treat all people with equal dignity, respect, and tolerance—for they shall be walking the way of peace;**

*Reduce child mortality*

**Blessed are the children, strong and hope-filled—the future shall be theirs to create and to tend;**

*Improve maternal health*

**Blessed are those who nurture and mother creation—the fullness of love is theirs to share;**

*Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*

**Blessed are they who care for the health of the world's population—for they work to bind the wounded heart of Jesus;**

*Ensure environmental sustainability*

**Blessed is the Earth, the heavens, plateaus, and grasslands; rainforests, mountains, and deserts; street corners, caves, and ocean wilds—for until we know the face of God, it is our only home;**

*Develop a global partnership for development*

**Blessed are the leaders with abundance who show concern for the needs of other nations and work to meet them without self-benefiting demands—they will shine in the light of good will and harmony.**

## **PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE**

### **Prayer for World Peace**

**By Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB**

Great God, who has told us  
“Vengeance is mine,”  
save us from ourselves,  
save us from the vengeance in our  
hearts  
and the acid in our souls.

Save us from our desire to hurt as we  
have been hurt,  
to punish as we have been punished,  
to terrorize as we have been  
terrorized.

Give us the strength it takes  
to listen rather than to judge,  
to trust rather than to fear,  
to try again and again  
to make peace even when peace  
eludes us.

We ask, O God, for the grace  
to be our best selves.  
We ask for the vision  
To be builders of the human  
community  
rather than its destroyers.  
We ask for the humility as a people  
To understand the fears and hopes of  
other peoples.  
We ask for the love it takes  
to bequeath to the children of the

world to come  
more than the failures of our own  
making.

We ask for the heart it takes  
to care for all the peoples  
of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Palestine  
and Israel  
as well as for ourselves.

Give us the depth of soul, O God,  
to constrain our might,  
to resist the temptations of power,  
to refuse to attack the attackable,  
to understand  
that vengeance begets violence,  
and to bring peace – not war –  
wherever we go.

For You, O God, have been merciful  
to us.

For You, O God, have been patient  
with us.

For You, O God, have been gracious  
to us.

And so may we be merciful  
and patient  
and gracious  
and trusting  
with these others who you also love.  
This we ask through Jesus,  
The one without vengeance is his  
heart.  
This we ask forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Earth Prayer for Peace

### Ute Prayer

Earth teach me stillness  
as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering  
as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility  
as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring  
as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage  
as the tree which stands alone.  
Earth teach me limitation  
as the ant which crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom  
as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me resignation  
as the seed which die in the fall.  
Earth teach me regeneration  
as the seed rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself  
as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness  
as dry field weep with rain.

Amen.

## Re-membering

I saw the wisdom of the inducements held out to keep us here in New Orleans, but I answered consistently that it is God's will for us to go on to St. Louis. In this matter we know the will of God. I am so glad to have come to America, I shall willingly make any sacrifice in order to advance our work. I think I am ready for anything, even to face again the terrors of the sea.

Philippine to Madeleine Sophie, New Orleans, 1818

We have had the honor of being severely criticized, and in order to undermine our work still further it is now reported that we are leaving here. There are people who wish we would do so. We must devote ourselves more and more to the poor and to our own perfection.

Philippine to Madeleine Sophie, Florissant, 1823

The author of the Imitation says that those who travel to distant lands rarely sanctify themselves; and elsewhere, that change of residence deceives many. I had hoped to do out here in America something for the glory of God and the salvation of His children, and now I find myself with hands as empty-and perhaps not so clean-as when I was in my little room on our Mountain of Love at Sainte Marie.

Philippine to her cousin Josephine Perier, Florissant, 1837

How has experience of the international Society changed your life?