

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

God of power and Mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



If there is peace, there is Love; If there is love, there is joy”

A reflection on the 6th Sunday of Easter

One of the most important messages of the Lord in this 6th Easter Sunday's gospel is "peace." "Peace be with you," he said when he appeared to his disciples on the evening of Easter Sunday (Lk 24:36).

Mahatma Gandhi, advocate of peace through non-violence, said, "If we live by an 'eye for an eye' kind of justice, the whole world would be blind today!"

"Peace" is a timely message in the country today, what with all the numerous issues being brought out by two opposing political parties in the Presidential Run that incur violence, hatred and animosities

among its followers. Among those issues are: Racism, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Islamophobia, Gender war, gun ban, etc. There's no peace at all.

At home, there's no peace when family members do not respect one another, as when children disobey their parents or when they ridicule each other's opinion.

There's a story about a young boy, who was doing his homework. He approached his father and asked: "Dad, how do wars begin? The father answered, "Well, war begins when, for example, the US attacks Britain; and then Britain retaliates.

The mother, who was within hearing distance, suddenly intervened: "How could that happen? USA and Britain are allies!

"But that's just an example!" The husband growled. "And how do you expect a child to learn with wrong examples!" the wife shot back.

Irrked, the husband replied, "But that was only an example...Why are you meddling?

Would you shut up!" "You shut up, too!" the wife snapped. "What you're teaching is wrong!" And the two launched into a heated argument.

The son raised his voice and said: "Papa, Mama, that's enough! Now I know how war begins."

There's no peace in a person if his or her life is a spiritual mess. There's a woman who was carrying on a relationship with a married man. Her family and friends disapproved of the illicit relationship. Unhappy and hounded by guilt feelings, she isolated herself, afraid to meet people.

But after much discernment, she got tired of her troubled life. She broke up with the married man and started a new life.

"You cannot imagine the relief I felt," she confided. " (I felt as though a big thorn was removed. "I now experience genuine peace and happiness."

That applies also to other attachments as, for instance, to vices. Peace cannot be achieved without tranquility of soul.

Finally, peace also means CONTENTMENT or, as St. Augustine puts it, “simplicity of heart.”

Envy lies at the heart of the absence of peace and of most unhappiness. Envious people never seem to be satisfied with what they have.

One must understand that we cannot have everything.

Let's all work for peace. Christ said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.”