



Diocese of Monterey

Office of the Bishop

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

War, whether it be in Ukraine or in the Middle East is terrible. It is heart wrenching for the people living in these respective locations, but also for family and friends who care about those who live there.

Today, Tuesday, October 17, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Archbishop Latin Primate of Jerusalem, called for us to join him in praying for Peace and Reconciliation in the Holy Land. We spiritually accompany him in prayer, not only today, but also in the days ahead. The terrible massacre of Israeli children, women, and men (young and old) on Saturday, October 7th (*Our Lady of the Rosary*) was unthinkable and horrific. Now, hostages are being held. There is no excuse for this kind of violence and hate, regardless of what country or people. Every act of violence and hate begets more violence and hate!

How many times have I cried out upon hearing of such an atrocity, ***“When will we learn, O Lord?”*** Amidst, these difficult days, it is easy to become cynical and disengaged when this War seems to be so distant from us here in the United States. Regardless of national origin, these are our brothers and sisters!

Cardinal Pizzaballa has urged Catholics to organize times of praying with Eucharistic Adoration and recitation of the Rosary, *“to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice and reconciliation.”* He also said, *“In this time of sorrow and dismay, we do not want to remain helpless. We cannot let death and its sting (1 Cor 15-55) be the only word we hear.”* *“That is why we feel the need to pray, to turn our hearts to God the Father. Only in his way we can draw the strength and serenity needed to endure these hard times, by turning to him, in prayer and intercession, to implore and cry out to God amidst this anguish.”*

As this war progresses, just as in Ukraine, let us be mindful of the humanitarian crisis that is growing exponentially every day. Innocent civilians, whether they be of Israeli or Palestinian descent are caught up in the middle of these acts of terror and destruction. There are NO winners!

Let us not forget to pray also for emergency and humanitarian workers: those who are assisting victims of this violence, who are in need of food, water, health care, and shelter. May our Lady of Peace intercede for all of us during this difficult time!

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey

