

WAR AND PEACE

“The work of evangelization in the world of the military, requires a growing assumption of responsibility, so that, in military life as well, there be an ever new, convicted and joyful proclamation of Jesus Christ, the one hope for life and peace for all humanity.” – Pope Benedict XVI, address to Military Ordinaries, October 22, 2011

Catechism of the Catholic Church

War 2307, 2308-2309
Peace 2304-2314 2258-2330

The Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses in general terms (para. 2312-2314) the conditions that must be met or avoided while fighting a war in order for the conduct of the war to be just: ... "The mere fact that war has regrettably broken out does not mean that everything becomes licit between the warring parties."

2304 Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace can not be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is "the tranquility of order."⁹⁸ Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity.

2239-1909 Those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the maintenance of peace.

Scripture

There is a vast amount of Scripture in regards to war and peace. These are just a few.

Ecclesiastes 3:8	Ephesians 6:11	Isaiah 2:4
Psalms 144	Jeremiah 46:16	1 Timothy 6:12
Matthew 24:6-7	Matthew 5:9	Matthew 10:28
Romans 8:37	Romans 13:4	Romans 14:19
James 4:1-2	Deuteronomy 20:1-4	Luke 6:27-31

Saints

There are many saints for soldiers and peace. Here are a few.

St. Michael the Archangel	St. Joan of Arc	St. George
St. Ignatius of Loyola	St. Sebastian	St. Oliver
St. John Paul II	Blessed Oscar Romero	St. John XXIII

Resources

Gaudium et Spes, 77-93

Catechism of the Catholic Church

<https://www.milarch.org/catholic-teaching-on-peace/>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/international-justice-and-peace/war-peace>

Prayers

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we **humbly pray**; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

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.

Reflection Questions

1. How can I bring about peace in a situation of conflict?
2. Are there times in my life where I can help bring peace to others going through a difficult time in their lives?
3. How does my faith bring me peace?
4. What are some ways that I can bring peace to myself? My family? My classmates?