

October 2025

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for
Middle School and High School Students



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

in collaboration with St. Joseph Ministries

October 2025

For collaboration
between different
religious traditions.

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering

Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.



Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's October 2025 Intention

- Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Reflection

Fr. Phil (a Catholic), and Saima (a Muslim), co-wrote this reflection.

- Saima Adil Sitwat is the Assistant Director of Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministry at Loyola University Maryland, and is an author, educator, and speaker. saimasitwat.com
- Fr. Phil Hurley, SJ began as National Director of the PWPN-USA on July 1 of this year.

Saima: I met Fr. Phil on my first day of work in university ministry. He greeted me with Assalam-o-Alekum, the Muslim greeting in Arabic meaning "peace be upon you," which I'm not accustomed to receiving from people of other faiths. Fr. Phil became a friend with whom I prayed when my mother was unwell, brainstormed when writing a grant proposal, and had spiritual conversations. When a regional conflict prevented me from returning to the U.S. from Pakistan where I was visiting my parents, Fr. Phil invited me to the prayer campaign on the Hallow app, "For Peace Between India and Pakistan," which brought me much comfort by connecting me with a network of fellow believers and promoters of peace.

Fr. Phil: Saima was the first Muslim co-worker I had ever had. I was struck by how respectful she was of my Catholic faith, and how genuinely interested to ask profound questions to learn about aspects of Christian belief. Her curiosity sparked many good conversations, and gave me a good example of how I might dialogue in friendship with people of other faith traditions. Many times in our work together, I found we had common ground in the principles of peace, justice, and human dignity that undergird Catholic social teaching. And when it came to specifically Catholic events on campus, Saima was very often one of our strongest supporters and would often attend.

For both of us: These experiences, centered on God, helped us discover the humanity that binds us across various faith traditions - through which we can seek to end wars, serve the most vulnerable, and help young people find the next steps God is inviting them to take. We are grateful for the work we were able to do together, and the friendship we have.

Sacred Scripture

- Read Matthew 5:9 or James 3:17-18

Note: Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

Saint Connection

Blessed Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916) is a wonderful example for this intention. Living among Muslims in the Sahara Desert, he dedicated his life to fraternal charity, hospitality, and dialogue. Although he wanted others to know Christ, he first focused on loving, understanding, and respecting his neighbors of different faiths.

- Blessed Charles sought friendship and shared humanity with people from other religions, welcoming all as brothers and sisters.
- He built bridges by listening, learning, and serving his neighbors, no matter their beliefs.
- His life inspires us to seek encounter, pursue peace, and work together for justice, in the spirit of human fraternity.

Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the October intention. Allow students to share their thoughts aloud.

- Why is it important for people from different religions to work together?
- Can you think of examples when people of different faiths have united for a good cause?
- How can understanding and respecting others' beliefs help build peace and justice?
- What small steps can you take to build bridges of understanding with people who think or believe differently from you?

Extension Activities:

- Invite a guest speaker from a different faith tradition to share about their beliefs and efforts for peace and justice.
- Organize a “Faith and Friendship” event where students research and share about different religious traditions and how they promote peace.

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:
 - God of all peoples, help us to see one another as brothers and sisters, regardless of faith or tradition. Inspired by Blessed Charles de Foucauld, may we listen, learn, and work together for peace, justice, and human fraternity. Guide us to be builders of bridges, sowers of trust, and instruments of Your love in a divided world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross