

March 2026

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Resource

for small group gatherings or classroom use



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

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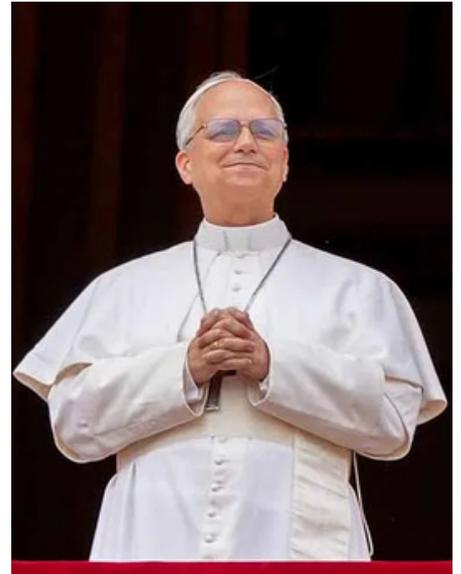
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March 2026

For disarmament and
peace.

Opening Prayer

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



Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more with the Heart of your Son Jesus, who gives himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's March 2026 Intention

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

The Pope Video

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

Reflection

Reflection by William deGuzman

William is an intern with PWPN USA and studies Finance and Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” This month, Pope Leo invites us to pray for disarmament and peace and asks that nations move toward effective nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy rather than violence. This intention carries profound meaning for me because of my experience this past August, when I joined a delegation of students, faculty, and bishops on a pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the eightieth anniversary of the atomic bombings.

The pilgrimage lived the Jubilee theme of Pilgrims of Hope, fostering reconciliation and peace through shared prayer and dialogue. Walking through the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum quickly took away any emotional distance I had brought with me. The images of burned children, the human shadows seared into stone, the shredded school uniforms, and the accounts of radiation sickness confronted me with the full horror of nuclear weapons. I felt sadness, anger, guilt, and disbelief that human beings could inflict such violence on one another. Over time, these emotions turned into a sense of responsibility. A message displayed by Hiroshima high school students expressed it clearly: “We may be weak, but we are not powerless.” This truth became real through my conversations with Japanese university students. As we shared our fears and hopes for peace, I saw how often peace begins in simple encounters where people recognize one another as human beings rather than strangers.

Meeting survivors deepened this conviction even further. Their willingness to speak about painful memories was an act of trust and hope, and it ensured that the world will not forget what happened. One moment that will remain with me forever was the Peace Mass at Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki. Standing before the damaged crucifix and the burned head of Mary, I heard the Archbishop of Nagasaki preach that God does not destroy us but forgives us and even gives his life for us. He said, “Our hope lies in God’s hands. Let us live as God’s hands.”

His words helped me understand more clearly that Christ’s call to be peacemakers is not an optional invitation. Peace in the world begins with peace in our own hearts, and true disarmament starts within. We can disarm our language by avoiding harsh or aggressive words. In conflict, we can choose dialogue and seek understanding. We can let go of small daily forms of violence like impatience or contempt. We can stay informed about places in conflict and pray for them. Most of all, we can act with justice in our relationships, remembering that peace is the fruit of just and loving lives.

As we pray with the Holy Father this month, may we become instruments of peace in our homes, our universities, our churches, and our world. May our lives reflect the Gospel call to be peacemakers so that the devastation witnessed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is never repeated.

Sacred Scripture

- Read **Isaiah 2:4** or **Matthew 5:44**

Saint Connection

St. Oscar Romero (1917–1980)—Archbishop of San Salvador and martyr for justice and peace.

- St. Oscar Romero spoke tirelessly against violence and injustice during a time of national conflict.
- He encouraged dialogue, respect for human dignity, and conversion of hearts rather than violence.
- His courage inspires us to promote peace and seek nonviolent solutions in a world often tempted by power or force.

Discussion Questions

- What are the dangers when countries rely on weapons instead of dialogue?
- How can diplomacy, listening, and compromise prevent violence and war?
- In what ways can young people be peacemakers in their schools, families, and communities?

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:

God of justice and peace, we pray for all nations and leaders. Move their hearts toward true disarmament and guide them to choose dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation over violence. Help us to be peacemakers in our own communities, standing for truth, compassion, and unity. Through the intercession of St. Oscar Romero, strengthen all who work for peace in our world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- End with the Sign of the Cross