



**December 2025**

**For Christians in Areas of Conflict**

For Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

**Pope's Prayer USA Video:** [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

**Pope Video:** [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)

**Reflection by Fr. Daniel Corrou, SJ**

Fr. Daniel Corrou, SJ. Dan worked with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Beirut from 2011-2014 as the Syrian refugee crisis began. He returned to Beirut and was named JRS MENA Regional Director (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) in 2020.

**"The Church is made for this."**

The war started and the people arrived at the door of the Church. From all around Lebanon hundreds of Migrants and Refugees who were refused from the official shelters arrived at the Jesuit Church in downtown Beirut.

For over forty years, the Jesuits had welcomed migrant workers from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Sudan, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Ethiopia. They gathered for mass on Sundays, and brought their Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu friends who found a safe place. This Church was a safe place for all where they could pray, eat their food, celebrate their festivals, play the sports that they loved, and form their own communities of support.

On the first night of the war in Lebanon in September 2024, migrants who lived far from Beirut and who had never been to the Church arrived at our door. They did not go to NGOs or to their embassies – they came to this Church – it was known as "the place you go when the situation is bad." It was known as a place of hope.

As we considered our options, the voice of one Jesuit was most prominent: "The Church is made for this." In times of chaos and war, the Church is built to welcome, to shelter, and to provide safety.

As we wondered how everyone would sleep – someone remembered that we had sleeping mats from a summer camp. As we wondered how we would feed so many – the volunteer parishioners (themselves migrant workers) had already finished cooking rice and lentils to feed all of them. For four months, amid attacks in the surrounding neighborhoods, the Church housed and fed them all.

We housed over 100 people in the Jesuit Church and sent hundreds of others to Monasteries and retreat houses in the mountains where they were safe. For four months the Church housed the most vulnerable because "the Church is made for this."

As Christians in the Middle East – and it is true EVERYWHERE – we are called to welcome the stranger, to be a beacon of hope. In times of war and civil strife – in times of natural disaster or political uncertainty, we are called to be agents of hope: "The Church is made for this."

**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.  
I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:  
the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.  
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,  
and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

**[Month]:** **For Christians in Areas of Conflict**

For Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

**Grace:** We pray for the grace to become true witnesses of peace, reconciliation, and hope in times of violence. May our communities be transformed into places of refuge, solidarity, and love, so that all who suffer may find in us a sign of Christ's presence and the promise of His peace.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" John 14:27

**[Reader 2] Scripture:** "Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." Ephesians 4:32

**[Reader 3] Quote:** "I invite you to look to Mary, to find the Lord, to conceive Him in your heart and to bring him promptly, in haste, to those who are distant, to bring him to those who are in need. Be a sign of hope, a sign of peace and joy, like Mary, because with the same "humility of his handmaid", you too can change the historical moment in which you live." (Pope Francis)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

1. Peace in Chaos  
How do I allow Christ's peace, which is "not as the world gives" (John 14:27), to shape the way I respond to fear, violence, or uncertainty in my own life?
2. Reconciliation in Relationships  
Ephesians calls us to be "kind, compassionate, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32).  
Where is the Lord inviting me to be an agent of reconciliation, whether with a friend, family member, or within my community?

3. Seeds of Hope

Fr. Dan recalled, "The Church is made for this." In what concrete ways can my community, like the Church in Beirut, become a place of refuge and hope for those who feel displaced, rejected, or abandoned?