

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 15, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last week I announced my upcoming pilgrimage to the Holy Land and invited you to send intentions for me to bring with me to the Holy Land. I am sad to say that the pilgrimage to the Holy Land will not be happening at this time. I am saddened on so many fronts, especially for the ordinary people of Israel and Palestine, who simply want to live their lives in peace and raise their families in joy and happiness. May the God of peace and love enable them to live side by side as brothers and sisters.

My heart goes out to the many peoples from across the world visiting Israel, some work related, others for vacation, and many to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. May the spirit of Christ sustain them and help bring them safely home to their family and friends.

Let us pray for Hamas, Hezbollah, the Israeli government, the Fatah government, and all who are in a position of power and influence, may they work together to bring about peace and justice and end this cycle of destructive evil that is war and hatred.

St. Francis Prayer for Peace
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May the peace of Christ remain forever in your hearts.

Fr. Martin