

Confessing violence

Compassionate Creator, Loving Parent, forgive us for all the devastation we are wreaking on your beautiful and bountiful creation through our wars, our acts of terrorism and abuse, and our self-centred behaviour as individuals, communities and nations.

Forgive us our cynicism and our blindness as we tend to sit on the sidelines and do and say nothing as these acts of violence occur around us.

Forgive us our tendency to point the finger of blame at people of other faiths, nationalities and racial groups when things go wrong.

Give us the courage in these gloomy situations to be peacemakers in your name, ready to follow the way of the cross rather than the tempting path of finger-pointing, war and violence.

Open our eyes that we may see that the way of the cross through non-violent deeds and words is only way to overcome evil without creating new forms of evil in its place. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One whom we desire to follow on the path of peace. Amen.

- Written by Larry Kehler

General prayer of confession

God of relationship,
We bring before you our brokenness
and the brokenness of our world.

We bring before you
our grief over the violence in our world;
over the wars that clear-cut lives
and drench your soil with innocent blood.

We confess our despair.
We confess our sense of helplessness.
We confess our lack of hope and courage.
We confess the distance we feel from those who suffer.
Forgive us by your grace.

Inspire us by the lives of war resisters and peacemakers
past and present.
Show us where we can reconcile and plant alternatives to
warfare.
Restore and empower us to resist evil.

By your strength, through your love, and in your name we
pray,

Amen.

- Written by Michele Rizoli