

# Prayers for Our Community at the University of Portland

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## Prayer to Christ the Teacher

Christ the Teacher  
Our light and hope;  
The way to the Father,  
The truth spoken in love,  
The life poured out for us.  
Instruct us with mercy and patience.

Nurture your word of life within us  
And reveal the spark of the Father  
In every living thing and in all your Creation.  
With grace, energy and humor,  
Give us wisdom to share.  
Increase our hope,  
Strengthen our faith and  
Stir us to service.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
All glory and honor be yours,  
Christ our Teacher,  
Now and forever.  
Amen.

## **Prayer for Non-Violence**

I bow to the sacred in all creation.

May my spirit fill the world with beauty and wonder.

May my mind seek truth with humility and openness.

May my heart forgive without limit.

May my love for friend, enemy, and outcast be without measure.

May my needs be few and my living simple.

May my actions bear witness to the suffering of others.

May my hands never harm a living being.

May my steps stay on the journey of justice.

May my tongue speak for those who are poor without fear of the powerful.

May my prayers rise with patient discontent until no child is hungry.

May my life's work be a passion for peace and nonviolence.

May my soul rejoice in the present moment.

May my imagination overcome death and despair with new possibility.

And may I risk reputation, comfort, and security to bring this hope to the  
children.

Amen.

(Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB)

## **Baha'i Prayer for Peace**

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech.

Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.

Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.

Be a breath of life to the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the human heart,  
and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

(Baha'u'llah)

## Prayer for Diversity

Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit  
you created unity in the midst of diversity;  
We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression  
of your manifold love for your creation;  
We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a  
source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.  
Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences  
as your great gift to the human family.  
Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love;  
Through the Lord, the ground of all unity, we pray.

Amen.

(Author Unknown)

## Prayer for an End to Racism

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required, “Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Mi 6:8). Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(USCCB)

## Prayer for the UP Community

Good and gracious God,  
You have blessed us with life on our beautiful bluff.  
We rejoice in the beauty of creation around us,  
and we are glad for the life we share here at UP.

Bless our sacred Catholic, Holy Cross mission of education,  
that this work may indeed fulfill the vision of Fr. Moreau  
of educating the hearts and minds of our students  
as a daily act of resurrection.

Bless our students, faculty, and staff now and always.  
Through Christ our Teacher and Lord.  
Amen.

(Fr. Tim Weed, C.S.C.)

