



# Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**October 2025**

**-For Collaboration between different Religious Traditions-**

“We pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.”

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

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

**Reflection by Fr Phil Hurley SJ and Saima Adil Sitwat**

*Saima Adil Sitwat is the Assistant Director of Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministry at Loyola University Maryland, and is an author, educator, and speaker. [saimasitwat.com](http://saimasitwat.com)*

*Fr. Phil Hurley, SJ began as National Director of the PWPN-USA on July 1 of this year.*

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*Fr. Phil (a Catholic), and Saima (a Muslim), co-wrote this reflection.*

**Saima:** I met Fr. Phil on my first day of work in university ministry. He greeted me with *Assalam-o-Alekum*, the Muslim greeting in Arabic meaning "peace be upon you," which I'm not accustomed to receiving from people of other faiths. Fr. Phil became a friend with whom I prayed when my mother was unwell, brainstormed when writing a grant proposal, and had spiritual conversations. When a regional conflict prevented me from returning to the U.S. from Pakistan where I was visiting my parents, Fr. Phil invited me to the prayer campaign on the Hallow app, "For Peace Between India and Pakistan," which brought me much comfort by connecting me with a network of fellow believers and promoters of peace.

**Fr. Phil:** Saima was the first Muslim co-worker I had ever had. I was struck by how respectful she was of my Catholic faith, and how genuinely interested to ask profound questions to learn about aspects of Christian belief. Her curiosity sparked many good conversations, and gave me a good example of how I might dialogue in friendship with people of other faith traditions. Many times in our work together, I found we had common ground in the principles of peace, justice, and human dignity that undergird Catholic social teaching. And when it came to specifically Catholic events on campus, Saima was very often one of our strongest supporters and would often attend.

**For both of us:** These experiences, centered on God, helped us discover the humanity that binds us across various faith traditions - through which we can seek to end wars, serve the most vulnerable, and help young people find the next steps God is inviting them to take. We are grateful for the work we were able to do together, and the friendship we have.



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**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the Heart of you Son Jesus, who is giving 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 the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church, and for the intentions of my Bishop, and the Pope for this month - Amen.

***October: We pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.***

**Grace:** We pray for the grace to open our hearts and minds to the desire of engaging with different religious traditions to promote peace, justice, and unity among all humans. Through the example of the Sacred Heart may we encounter others with love and seek understanding through dialogue.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt 5:9)

**[Reader 2] Quote:** "Recognizing and developing our common spiritual heritage – through interreligious dialogue – helps us to promote and to uphold moral values, peace and freedom in society" (Saint John Paul II, 1979)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

1. Do you actively seek understanding when engaging in dialogue with people from different religious traditions, or do you seek to "win" or "prove you are better" in those conversations?
2. What are some actions you can take in your own life to grow in understanding of other traditions and to seek peace and justice among all the people around you?
3. How can we as Christians, come together with other religious traditions to promote peace, justice, and better relations with all human beings?