

*a World
on Its
Knees*

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Praying for and with our brothers and sisters in Haiti

Compiled by
Sr. Kathryn James Hermes, FSP



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Calm the Shaking of the Earth

Most high God,
In our terror we turned to you.
In our distress we cried out for help.
You rescued us and you renew us.
Calm the waves of the water and the shaking of the earth.
Help the vulnerable, those who are alone.
You who were buried in a borrowed grave,
be with those buried in the unmarked grave.
Be with those who seek family and friends, as your friends
in sorrow looked for you. You who bring us the promise of resurrection,
carry each of us carefully in your heart.
✠ Sr. Margaret Charles Kerry, FSP—with the [*Pauline Laity*](#)

No Words

Lord—
I am speechless in the face of tragedy.
I pray:
have mercy on us all
and bring us all to eternal life.
Amen.
✠ Alison

Let Me Embrace Others' Pain

Lord, grant me a listening heart
open to your concerns,
open to others' needs.
Give me a large heart that embraces all people
of every culture throughout the world.

Reconcile people to yourself and to one another.
Heal wounds: physical, emotional, and spiritual.
Give everyone what is needed for survival in this world.

Deepen our awareness that because you made us for yourself
our hearts will always be restless.

May all of us grow in love for you and for one another,
so that we may build a new earthly city...
while we await the eternal city of heaven. Amen.
✠ Elizabeth

We Are Coming!

Brothers and sisters of Haiti,
little children and those caught in the terror of the rubble, unable to help yourself or
help loved ones—you open our eyes to the mystery of suffering.
We call out loud and say to you—hang on!
We are coming!
We feel your helplessness too!
✠ Sr. Mary Elizabeth Tebo, FSP

Solidarity of the Human Family

God,
we are all brothers and sisters,
no matter our nationality.
You want us to love one another in solidarity.
We are united, despite our language, our faith, our country,
when we are united in pain.
But as your children, we are also united in one hope,
and in love shown in deeds.
Today we pray for our suffering brothers and sisters
around the world,
that they might be able to trust in you,
who can create everything anew.
Bless us and strengthen us always. Amen.
✠ Maria

Une Priere Pour Haiti

Cher Seigneur, je te remercie d'avoir sauvegarder la vie ma famille en Haiti,
especialmente ma chère mère.
Mais, il y a tant d'autres qui on besoin ton secours.
Nous tous sont en grand de peine maintenant.
Mais nous savons tous,
avec notre foi et notre croyance en toi seigneur,
nous serons delivrès de cette tragédie
qui a engloutie notre chère capitale. Amen.
✠ Someone praying in Boston whose mother is in Haiti

God, What's Going On?

When cities and buildings have collapsed,
and lives of innocents have been senselessly crushed out,
and the world stands silent in horrified shock...

God, what is going on?
We're afraid.

And yet, all is possible with you, isn't it?
So in disasters bigger than life itself, we will not be overcome.
You are bigger than the death that is generated.
You bring life out of our deaths.

Show us how to be life, too, in the face of this death.
Make us hope and love. Amen.

✠ Chris

Help Them Cling to You

God our Father, our hearts groan
as we witness the pain of our Haitian brothers and sisters
who have lost family, homes, and material security.
Help them to cling to you in hope.
Give us compassion and courage
to reach out to them in love and prayer.
Unite us all in the faith that believes
"all things work together for the good of those who love God."
Amen.

✠ Sr. Carmen Christi, FSP – novice director of the [*Daughters of St. Paul*](#)

A Prayer of a Rescue Worker

I'm tired, Lord. It's hot, and I long for fresh water.
My arms ache.
My ears tire of straining to hear a call for help in the rubble.
How will people go on with their lives
never having heard if a loved one was found,
never knowing where they were buried.
How, Lord, will we begin to rebuild this place?

I know I am not alone.
Some of us are here, but so many more have pledged money and assistance.
Millions are following our daily progress on the internet, mobile phones, blogs, TV
and radio.

Thank you for the marvel of the media which can draw us all together as one family
and in an instant we can come together to help a country in need. Never let us forget
Haiti again!

But now, just for today, help me go on caring, loving, being here for those who need
help. I trust you, Jesus.
☞ Lyssa

Revive the Church in Haiti

Most high God,
you continue to carry each of us close to your heart.
In the midst of our troubles we turn to you.
We proclaim your steadfast love.
We celebrate your healing power.
Revive your Church in Haiti.
Uplift us when human courage melts away.
Set us free from fear. Restore us to fullness of life.
Heal the wounded, comfort the sorrowful, give peace to the afflicted.
In your arms the earth is still and the raging waters calm.
✠ Sr. Margaret Charles Kerry, FSP—with the [*Pauline Laity*](#)

Open Us, O Lord

Lord, open our eyes,
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears,
that we may hear the cries from the hungry, the cold,
the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hands,
that we may reach out to all who are in need.

Lord, open our hearts,
that we may love each other as you love us.
✠ Someone praying in Canada

The Mystery

It's not easy to understand suffering, Lord, especially when it happens to children and innocent people. There is a mystery involved, and although you let us see some of it, you are the only One who really knows the whole story. We bow in humility before this mystery.

Even though you do not step in miraculously to block or cure all suffering, one thing is for certain: you are continually working to bring the most good out of every situation.

Please bless all those who are victims of violence and natural disasters with a deep awareness of your presence and love. Grant them the gift of hope.

☞ Sr. Raymond Marie Gerard, FSP

You Are the Lord of Life

Jesus, we believe that you are the Lord of Life.

You triumph over all sorrow, despair,
darkness and death!

Give strength and courage

to all men and women

who are generously laying down their lives

to bring relief, compassion and hope

to our suffering brothers and sisters in Haiti.

May their glance of love,

their hands reaching out to heal,

their energies spent to rebuild and restore

be the visible sign

of your Resurrection and life-giving presence.

Amen.

☞ Sr. Carmen Christi, FSP – novice director of the [*Daughters of St. Paul*](#)

May Your Gentle Hand Brush Away My Tears

Gentle God,
help me not so much to understand what has happened
as to accept and continue to live my life,
filled with love and compassion.
As your gentle hand softly wipes away my tears,
let me not turn from you and your ways, but *to* you.

Help me, Lord,
to turn these hands of mine into *your* hands,
that I may be your gentle touch
for someone who may need it,
your voice for someone
who longs for your encouragement,
and your heart to love all men and women. Amen.
✞ Sr. Marlyn Evangelista Monge, FSP

Ô Sègnè Jezi

Ô Seigneur Jesus, sauve le peuple Haitien.
Ô Sègnè Jezi, sovè pep Haiytien.
✞ Jocelyn, whose mother lives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

You Are Our Shelter

Lord Jesus, we are afraid and anxious.
Our lives have been shattered by the rending of the earth.
We seek you in our despair, for you are our hope.
You are the food and water
that will satisfy our hunger and thirst.
You are the shelter that will keep us safe
from the harm and uncertainty that surrounds us.
We beg you to be with us in our hour of great need,
to embrace us with your presence
and to heal us with the balm of your love.
Give us the courage and strength
we need to help one another and to rebuild our shattered lives.
✠ John

God, I Want to Thank You

God, I want to thank you in a special way for the many people who respond heroically to disasters: medical personnel, journalists, all those who work in the dirt and rubble to find the victims and all who provide monetary means for food and reconstruction. People from all over the world reach out to others whom they have never met and will probably never meet again. They are not asking if the victims are Christians, or Jews, or Muslims or atheists. The disaster erases all these walls and boundaries. Human beings see each other as human beings...at least temporarily. Bless everyone who is reaching out in whatever way. Help us preserve that deeper awareness of YOU in every person.
✠ Sr. Raymond Marie Gerard, FSP

I Feel So Helpless

It's hard being so far away from my family members in Haiti.
Some are alive and some are dead.
And some I still don't even know about.
I feel so helpless, Jesus.
Your love and care for them is greater than mine.
So please do something. Send people to help them.
☞ Someone praying in Boston

I Haven't Heard

Dear Mother Mary, when Jesus was lost for three days in the temple, you suffered indescribable pain, not knowing where he was or if he was alright. Your motherly heart understands what I am going through right now.
I, too, am in turmoil not having heard any word from my loved ones in Haiti.
Are they okay? Are they injured? Are they even alive?

Help me in this time of trial and pain, to receive some news soon.
Grant eternal rest to all those who have died, healing and strength to the sick and injured, and comfort to those who mourn.

Bless all those who are helping in this great disaster and fill many hearts with generosity to share what they have with those who now have nothing.
☞ Sr. Denise Cecilia, FSP – [*Director of Marketing*](#) for Pauline Books and Media

We Are Alive Because of Your Grace

Lord Jesus, the terror has past
and the dull ache of an abiding pain has taken its place.
We have lost so many of our family,
our friends and our neighbors.
We have lost our possessions
and the essential items that have allowed us
to live our lives to the present.
Yet we are grateful to you and are filled with hope.
We are alive because of your grace
and we know that with your grace we can rebuild our lives,
our communities and our country.
Guide us during this difficult time.
Help us to make the best decisions
that will benefit us both now and in the future.
✎ Eustache

Comfort and Peace

May all of the Haitians who are suffering during this time
(those who are grieving the loss of loved ones
and those who still haven't heard from their loved ones)
receive comfort and peace.
May they receive God's grace of knowing
and experiencing God's loving presence in and with them.
Amen.

✎ Sr. Jennifer Thecla Hyatt, FSP – web assistant at daughtersofstpaul.com

Help Me To Bring Comfort

Lord Jesus, I am afraid and confused.
There is turmoil all around me.
I am so thirsty and hungry.
And yet there are so many people who need
help and compassion right now.
Help me to be your compassion to all those around me.
Help me to be your courage to them,
to listen to them and offer them whatever aid I can offer.
In whatever way or manner,
help me to bring comfort to these people that suffer with me.
✎ Jean

It Must Be So Hard

I pray for all the people here in North America who have family in Haiti.
It must be so hard to be here, in another country,
when loved ones are suffering far away,
and not be able to go to their aid.

Jesus, may your peace settle on them,
and may their tears and prayers help them feel close to their loved ones and to you,
until all the families are able to be reunited. Amen.
✎ Grace

We Pray for One Another

We raise our thoughts and voices to God to ask him to give hope for the survivors of Haiti's catastrophic earthquakes. We pray that their infrastructure may be replaced as soon as possible, power restored, necessary water be supplied; that the flow of food and supplies reach the needy.

May there be a united effort to assist the people of Haiti to rebuild homes that are better built, that families may be reunited, that medical care givers may have all that is necessary for them to serve the multitudes still awaiting for treatment.

May the people find hope and courage to rebuild their churches and schools, and religious institutions.

We pray for one another, we who are stewards of God's gifts, to assist our brothers and sisters in this impoverished country, sharing the goods of this world with those who have none and, at most, very little, so they receive what is necessary for a dignified life.

Grant our prayers, Heavenly Father, for these and the great family of humankind. Your Providence does provide for all your sons and daughters; may we find it in our hearts to collaborate with you in sharing these gifts with the less fortunate. Our Father, who art in heaven...give us this day our daily bread. Amen.

☞ Sr. Sharon Legere, FSP – video blog at sacredstillnesstoday.blogspot.com

A Night Prayer for Haiti

As evening falls
I ask you, Lord,
to comfort your people in Haiti.
Give them strength to breathe, live, rest, heal, and hope.
Strengthen those who assist your people in their time of need.
Inspire us, the brothers and sisters of the Haitian people,
to listen to their stories and share them with the world.

Encourage us with your grace to continue to respond
in every way we can to relieve your people
in these days of uncertainty,
as they begin to rebuild their homes and lives.

Still the earth, Lord, with your gentle hand
so that no more people are injured or killed.
Quiet the powerful winds that swipe the region,
so that your people have time to recover.

Console the orphans, the parents who have lost children,
the injured, those who hunger and thirst,
and those who are dying.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died, Lord,
and be with all your people,
hear these our prayers as we lie down to rest,
tomorrow to rise again, to see you, to serve you, in Haiti.

☞ Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP – blogs at www.sisterrose.wordpress.com,
www.confrontingtheduck.wordpress.com. Friend her on Facebook: Rose Pacatte

Hear Our Cry

O God, our Father,
our broken hearts and bodies
and our tears cry out in anguish!
“Where are you?”
Hear our cry, O God our Father!
Our faith tells us you are here weeping for your children.
You are here looking for the missing;
you are here tending to the dying and the injured;
here in the multitudes pouring out love and compassion;
you are present in the hearts of all,
sustaining us and giving us the courage
to go on in our struggle
grasping for an answer to the “Why?” of all that has happened.
Faith tells us you are near to the poor,
the afflicted, the despairing
to heal and lift up those bowed down.
Hear our cry for help.
Mercifully embrace us in your loving strong arms.
Take to yourself our misery and anoint us
with your tender mercies.
We do believe; help our unbelief.
This we ask you in the name of Jesus,
your Son, our brother, who suffered
and died to bring us eternal life. Amen.

☞ Sr. Sharon Legere, FSP – video blog at sacredstillnesstoday.blogspot.com

Thank You, Haiti

Thank you, Haiti, for showing the world your faith.
Thank you for telling us how you have prayed,
that you have trusted in God.
Thank you for singing,
for hoping in the midst of despair.

Thank you, Haiti, for reminding us gently that God exists,
that even in extreme poverty
you have believed.
Your belief is a wealth so many of us long for.

Thank you, Haiti, for as we give you our money,
you give us the simplicity of your relationship with God.
It isn't really a fair exchange.
You have given us more than we could ever give you.

Lord, melt our hearts so that in giving we receive
and in receiving we will give all the more,
for in you,
we are only one body. *Yours.*

☞ Sr. Kathryn J. Hermes, FSP – blogs at kathrynhermes.blogspot.com, and stjosephhelps.wordpress.com, author of *Beginning Contemplative Prayer*, *Surviving Depression*, and *Making Peace with Yourself*

Pauline Books and Media

For over 75 years Pauline Books and Media has been a vital part of the mission of the Daughters of St. Paul in North America.

The [Daughters of St. Paul](#) and the employees of Pauline Books & Media are called to offer a fruitful announcement of the Word of salvation in the midst of the challenges in the present changing social-cultural and ecclesial context so that every man and woman of good will can encounter the Word that saves: Christ the Master, Way, Truth and Life.

The [Pauline Mission](#) in the US is comprised of Pauline Books and Media Publishing House, music recording studio, radio studios, art studios, photo studios, 15 Pauline Books and MediaCenters in the US and English-Speaking Canada, the Center for Media Studies in Culver City, CA, and JClub.

The Pauline mission is a new form of evangelization in the Church: Blessed James Alberione, founder of the Daughters of St. Paul, saw it as “written preaching” alongside the oral preaching that characterizes the ministry of the priest. The quality of the sisters’ faith, a gift received from the infinite goodness of God, is expressed in Pauline productions and mission.

Pauline Books and Media seeks to serve individuals with their personal and spiritual needs as well as create a new imprint on society: “forming a new mentality in society, giving it a new direction...transforming and sanctifying laws, governments, entertainment, education...every aspect of individual and social life” (Blessed James Alberione).