

PRAYER TO MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

Holy Mary, Mother of Love,
holding in your arms
the tender fruit of your womb,
you heard echoing in the sky over Bethlehem,
the angelic announcement of peace,
the first gift to the world of the Word made flesh,
graciously turn your glance down
on the dark night of our earth
still inebriated with hate and violence.

Mother of Mercy,
you gave to the world the Savior,
obtain for rulers wisdom and discernment,
so that they use the conquests
of science and technology
to promote a human development respectful
of creation
and works of justice, solidarity and peace.
Make enemies open to dialogue,
bring adversaries to shaking hands
and all peoples to meet in harmony.

Virgin Mary,
hidden in the house in Nazareth,
you lived with simple and faithful love
the daily dimension of family life,
enter into each of our families
and melt the ice of indifference and silence
that makes parents strangers and distant
one from each other and from their own children.

Mary, Queen of Peace,
help us to understand that the first peace
we must attain
is that of a heart freed from sin,
and make it that, purified as such,
we are able also to become builders of peace,
so that the city of man
can become the industrious workplace
in which is realized the salvation of Christ your Son,
who is the true and lasting peace. AMEN!

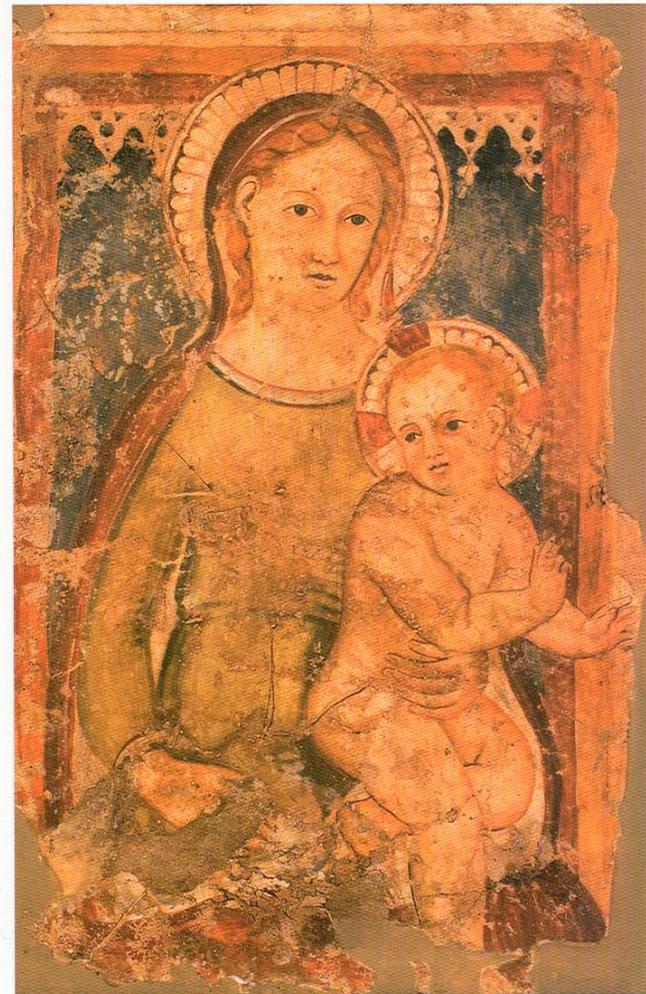
Cardinal RENATO R. MARTINO

"The entire body of the faithful pours forth urgent supplications to the Mother of God and of men that she, who aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers, may now, exalted as she is above all the angels and saints, intercede before her Son in the fellowship of all the saints, until all families of people, whether they are honoured with the title of Christian or whether they still do not know the Saviour, may be happily gathered together in peace and harmony into one People of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity" (Constitution *Lumen gentium*, No. 69).

Antique fresco of the Madonna and Child that is found in the chapel of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

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Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
Vatican City



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