**The Prayers of the People, according to the form of St. Francis' Intercessions**

The people kneel.

**Priest:** In the midst of violence and fear throughout the world, let us pray to our heavenly Father, using the intercessions of blessed Francis of Assisi, who also lived in violent and fearful times, and confronted the darkness with prayers for peace:

**Intercessor:**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

We pray for your one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, including all bishops and other ministers―lay and ordained―whom we remember at this time. (*The people may add intercessions.)* May we proclaim by word and example the Good News of your love for the world.

***People: Where there is hatred,*** ***let us sow love***;

***where there is injury,*** ***let us sow pardon.***

We pray for our nation, for those in authority, those who seek authority, and all who are sworn to serve and protect. May our leaders defend the virtues of liberty and justice for all, and through all our diversity may we stand united as a beacon of freedom and hope.

***People: Where there is discord, let us sow union.***

We pray for the welfare of the world, the great multitude from every tribe and language and people and nation. We remember all people and places broken by war, poverty, disease, and environmental degradation, including those whom we remember at this time. (*The people may add intercessions.)* In Christ, you were reconciling this broken world to yourself,

***People: So where there is doubt,*** ***let us sow faith;***

***Where there is despair,*** ***let us sow hope.***

We pray for the concerns of our local community, as we remember all who suffer or find themselves in any need or trouble, including any whom we name at this time, either silently or aloud. (*The people may add intercessions.)* May we reach forth our own hearts and hands in love.

***People: Where there is darkness,*** ***let us shine light.***

Finally, we pray for all who have died, including any whom we name at this time, either silently or aloud. (*The people may add intercessions.)* May they find rest in the arms of your mercy, and may their loved ones find peace and comfort in the hope of the resurrection.

***People: Where there is sadness,*** ***let us share joy.***

**Intercessor:** Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

***People: to be understood*** ***as to understand***;
**Intercessor:** to be loved as to love.

***People: For it is in giving*** ***that we receive***;

**Intercessor:** it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

***People: and it is in dying*** ***that we are born to eternal life***. **Amen.**

**Priest:** As a faithful beginning for living these prayers not only with our lips but in our lives, let us now confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

**All:** Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The priest declares God's forgiveness, and invites the people to stand renewed in this assurance and share the peace of the Lord.*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People: And also with you.***