



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
305 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
[www.AODcommunications.org](http://www.AODcommunications.org)  
TEL 313-237-5943  
FAX 313-237-4644

## **Cardinal Maida Calls for Prayers for Peace**

### **Pope Proclaims July 23 a Day of Prayer and Penance for Peace in the Middle East**

Pope Benedict XVI has declared Sunday, July 23, to be a day dedicated to prayers and penance for people of all religious faiths "to implore God for the precious gift of peace." In a statement from the Vatican Press Office, the Holy Father urged prayers for "an immediate cease-fire between the (warring) sides," the establishment of "a humanitarian corridor in order to bring aid to the suffering people," and the start of "reasonable and responsible negotiations so as to end the objective situations of injustice existing in that region."

With about 300,000 Arabs of both Christian and Muslim faiths, and nearly 90,000 Jews all living within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Detroit, the current situation in the Middle East has brought that distant conflict "home" to them. Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has called on the priests and people of the archdiocese to keep "both our neighbors and their families and friends overseas in our thoughts and prayers for an end to the violence."

"With so many Christian, Muslim and Jewish friends here in metro Detroit who have family members caught in the crossfire in the Middle East, we are especially mindful of the effects of this recent eruption of violence," said the cardinal. "Let us all hope and pray to the Prince of Peace that the yearning for peace and security among all the peoples of the region will soon be realized."

In response to the Holy Father's proclamation and to numerous requests from local parishes, the Office of Christian Worship of the Archdiocese of Detroit has prepared a selection of *General Intercessions* to be used in time of war and natural disaster. A *Liturgy of Lament (Prayer Service for Peace)* has also been developed. The *Intercessions* and the *Liturgy of Lament*, as well as the statement from the Vatican Press Office, can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at [www.AODonline.org](http://www.AODonline.org).

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