



A Prayer for Haiti

"I invite you to pray, by the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, that every sort of violence may cease, and that everyone may offer their contribution to the growth of peace and reconciliation in the country, with the renewed support of the international community."

Pope Francis, Angelus March 2024

For so long, Haitians have endured a structural crisis, affecting the poorest families. Two devastating earthquakes (2010, 2021) have increased the crisis; Haitians face waves of social unrest, gang violence and uncertainty about the future. [Pax Christi International](#) has denounced the **unfolding crisis** in Haiti, **where over 100 gangs control a 80% of the metropolitan area**. Fueled by kidnapping, plundering, and imposed taxes, this gang violence and infighting has created a humanitarian crisis for civilians caught in the crossfire.

According to the United Nations, 1,4 million Haitians have fled because of violence and instability in the country. Many crossed the border into the Dominican Republic. Others, look for a way to cross the border in the United States. Those Haitians in the diaspora live in fear. They suffer discrimination and exclusion. Some have been deported back to Haiti. There was a Transition Agreement (April 2024) that have not been followed by the politicians involved in the implementation of this Agreement. Ant the people continue suffering!

In an Open letter to the Authorities in place : Political, Police, Judiciary and Administrative, our partner in Haiti, *The National Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission -JILAP*, [Pax Christi International Peace Award 2024](#), in collaboration with Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, pointed out again "to consider the major crisis that shakes the country and the great number of victims that die every day, and to look carefully and with a deep sense of responsibility to the questions related to the constitutional amendments and the referendum related to these.

The Transition agreement (April 2024) that put the country's political transitional authorities in place (called CPT), foresaw a National Conference. The event was never organized. On the contrary, the violence intensifies and criminal acts become generalized. The reports of the Commission as well as other witnesses are proving this. The conclusion is clear, the transition failed, despite some efforts made by the Police officers and the general Administration that keeps the country going. The general climate and conditions



to review or to introduce amendments to the Constitution are not there. Moreover, the conditions requested by the Constitution itself to introduce changes or to reform it are not in fulfilled. These facts bring the Commissions to the following conclusion.”

As Pax Christi International, at this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we echo what the Commissions have concluded, and remarks that without a structural social, political, economic change -starting to implement those positive norms stated in the Constitution of 1987, there won't be Peace for Haitians in the country and opportunities to return for those in de diaspora.

PRAYER FOR HAITI AND ITS PEOPLE OF GOD

Loving God,

Today at the Advent time, we pray, even the worst of challenges facing Haiti, for the restoration of political stability, for “a disarmed and disarming Peace” to Haiti.

We pray for a peace process and for the gangs to stop violence. We also pray for the stop of US illegal weapons in the hands of young people in Haiti.

We pray for the International Community to accompany Haitian People of God, in their seek for Justice and Development – for every Haitian have their daily bread. We pray for them to addressing severe humanitarian needs like hunger and lack of medical supplies.

We pray for your intercession, oh, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours), as the patroness of Haiti. We invoke Your protection for the country, its people, and their homes. Bless their children and give them all Hope and Release, for a future in which Haitians could leave in harmony!

Oh, our Lord, protect those Haitians that follow the way of the nonviolent Jesus, we pray Together, on His Name, to accompany every effort to foster peace and economic recovery, every action that promotes a real transition process for Just Peace in Haiti!

Amen!