

# Planting of the Peace Pole

## Introduction

„Go in peace.“ This mission, which we receive at the end of each Eucharist, will now at the end of our General Chapter be given to us and shall accompany us during the coming six years. Let us go in peace! We know that the peace of Christ is not a static one, a kind of no-growth. It is rather a dynamic peace which wants to transform the world. Mother Pauline was aware of this mission. Therefore she asks the Lord: „May the Lord grant me His peace and the grace to bring peace to all. (February 2, 1850) During the General Chapter we have shared our thoughts and vision about our mission to be messengers of peace. In view of discord, violence, war we are time and again in danger of getting discouraged. But as Christians we have a great potential to be peacemakers. With the motto of the message for the World Day of Peace Pope Benedict XVI draws our attention to the foundation of peace:

### THE HUMAN PERSON – THE HEART OF PEACE.

This motto encourages us to orient ourselves in our concrete effort for peace as the basic Christian belief about human being. In all the discord which surrounds us, it depends first of all on the human being, on each of us personally. We ask ourselves: Do we respect the belief and dignity of others? Are we in this sense peaceable? Do we practice to be peace-makers? How do we live? Do we develop as community human living conditions in order to give peace an opportunity to grow?

The Peace Pole or Reminder of Peace (as they call it in the Archdiocese of Paderborn), which you see here, can remind us of our mission to be peacemakers. Soon we will carry it from here to the yard. Peace Poles had been initiated in the early 1950's in Japan. Now there are already thousands of Peace Poles in about 200 countries. They are a reminder of a collective promise to commit oneself for world peace. They are so to speak a constant prayer for

peace, expressed in the message: „May Peace Prevail on Earth.“ Our Peace Pole conveys this message in six languages and in Braille.

## Reading

From the Message for the World Day of Peace 2007 of Pope Benedict XVI

*The Human Person, the Heart of Peace. I am convinced that respect for the person promotes peace and that, in building peace, the foundations are laid for an authentic integral humanism. In this way a serene future is prepared for coming generations. (1) Let every Christian be committed to tireless peace-making and strenuous defense of the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights.*  
(16)

## Steps of Peace

We start now our „Way of Peace“. We begin with a meditative dance, the „Dance of the Well“, which will remind us that we have to draw the authentic peace time and again from the true fountain, which is Jesus Christ. Only then will we be able to do “steps of peace” which we will do now symbolically. I invite you to accompany the Sisters who will carry the Plaques with the Peace Prayer. The Sisters of the Generalate will lead the procession, all the other Sisters follow the bearers of the Plaques. During the procession we will sing: DONA NOBIS PACEM.

## Planting the Peace Pole

*After having reached the Peace Pole we keep silence for some moments.  
Then we read the prayer for peace in the six languages:*

<b>German:</b>	Möge Friede auf Erden sein
<b>English:</b>	May Peace Prevail on Earth
<b>Spanish:</b>	Que la paz prevalezca en la tierra
<b>Italian:</b>	Che la pace regni sulla terra
<b>Tagalog:</b>	Sana'y manatili ang kapayapaan sa daigdig
<b>Vietnamese:</b>	Câu chúc hòa bình cho toàn nhân loại trên thế giới
<b>Braille:</b>	

## Inter-Faith Prayers for Peace:

In 1986 Pope John Paul II had invited for the first time representatives of the various Religions in order to pray together for peace. The prayer for peace is not something which we add to our efforts for peace; it is the foundation, the basis of it, and it shall penetrate it like leaven.

Representative of all people of good will who are longing for peace we will now pray some prayers of the various Religions in the world.

### **Jewish Prayer for Peace**

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
That we may walk the paths of the Most High.  
And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,  
And our spears into pruning hooks.  
Nations shall not lift up a sword against nation –  
Neither shall they learn war any more.  
And none shall be afraid,  
For the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

### **Muslim Prayer for Peace**

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful.  
Praise be to the Lord of the Universe  
who has created us  
and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other,  
not that we may despise each other.  
If the enemy incline towards peace,  
do thou also incline towards peace, and trust God,  
for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things.  
And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those  
who walk on the Earth in humility,  
and when we address them, we say PEACE.

### **Native American Prayer for Peace**

O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you.  
To your messengers the four winds,  
and to Mother Earth who provides for your children.  
Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect,  
and to be kind to each other  
so that they may grow with peace in mind.  
Let us learn to share all the good things  
you provide for us on this Earth.

### Buddhist Prayer for Peace

May all beings everywhere  
plagued with sufferings of body and mind  
quickly be freed from their illnesses.  
May those frightened cease to be afraid,  
and may those bound be free.  
May the powerless find power,  
and may people think of befriending one another.  
May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wildernesses –  
the children, the aged, the unprotected –  
be guarded by beneficent celestials,  
so that never-ending light and happiness  
can be obtained for the world of the future.

### Ecumenical Prayer for Peace (2007)

Lord, all powerful God,  
with our hearts full of Hope,  
we turn to You,  
to You, who transforms and creates new things,  
to You, the Lord of fatherly Peace  
and of motherly Love.

Your Church, on the shores of the Mediterranean,  
went through the pains of childbirth and the years of infancy.  
Remain with Your Church, which continues to grow in the world,  
so that it may reach full unity.

In this time of growth we ask You  
for the grace of conversion.  
Renew in us the spirit of community,  
transform our thoughts into thoughts of love,  
grant us the experience of Your peace.

Give us the courage and the flexibility  
to accept the changes  
in ourselves and in others,

in those who suffer  
and in those who cause suffering,  
in the victims and in the blameworthy,  
and in all Your people.

In a world full of violence and hate,  
grant us the courage  
to sow love and concord.  
Nourish in us the seed of unity,  
and give us the vision  
that allows us to see the conflicts between us  
and to learn how to resolve them.

Prepare our Spirit, our hearts and hands  
to gather your harvest.

Amen.

*Each one of us who wants to can now put her „prayer seed“ into the soil  
so that – like the grain of wheat – it may bear fruit.*

### **Intercessions**

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to radiate warmth and light.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to bring hope and confidence.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to raise trust  
and to give trust.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to spend itself in love  
without expecting to be loved.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to recognize the signs of the time  
and to interpret them with prudence.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to see the need of the neighbor  
and to help concretely.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to take risks  
in order to alleviate poverty and suffering.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to commit ourselves for the Gospel  
and to act according to it.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to allow dialogue  
in order to open a good future.

LORD AND GOD,  
give us a burning heart  
which is able  
to glorify YOU more and more.

## Song

Wenn einer alleine träumt,  
ist es nur ein Traum.

Wenn viele gemeinsam träumen,  
so ist das der Beginn einer neuen Wirklichkeit.

Täumt unsern Traum.

When we are dreaming alone  
it is only a dream.

When we are dreaming with others,  
it is the beginning of reality.

Cuando uno sueña  
es sólo un sueño,  
pero cuando soñamos juntos  
es el comienzo de una nueva realidad.