

## **PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL IN SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIA**

Tomorrow I will offer my first Lenten fast to the people of Syria. Please let them know that we are weeping with them, mourning with them, and truly love them as our brothers and sisters. I pray for peace and healing and that the light in every person recognizes the light of God in the other. That peace will reign in their streets again. I send my love, my hope, and my prayers to you all.

**Rachel Hale, United States**

I will fast every Friday during Lent for the Syrian people.

**Pierre Koesters, USA**

I stand in solidarity with you. You are wonderful children of God. I cry for your freedom and dignity. I pray for your hunger to be satisfied. I pray for softening of hearts that persecute you. May peace and joy and forgiveness reign in your hearts.

**Patricia Collins, USA**

Liebe Schwestern und Brüder in Syrien, während meiner Studienzeit in den 60er Jahren habe ich Ihr Land besucht und bin einige Tage in Aleppo gewesen. Ihre Gastfreundschaft ist mir noch in guter Erinnerung. So sehe ich mit großer Trauer im Fernsehen Bilder, wie Teile der Stadt durch die Kämpfe zerstört werden. Welch eine Tragik! Ich bete für Sie, dass bald eine politische Lösung der Probleme Ihres Landes kommt, die nur in Gesprächen gefunden werden kann. Mit guten Wünschen.

**Ewald Biedenbach, Germany**

I am fasting today, March 13, March 20 and March 27 in prayer and solidarity with the people of Syria.

**Cathy Rowan, USA**

Our Congregation, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, will participate in a communal day of Prayer and Fasting for the people of Syria on March 15.

**Patricia Ridgley, USA**

My prayers will be with suffering Syrians from now until the end of their just struggles. I have been praying for them but will hold them in a special way in my prayer life from now on.

**Barbara Brennan, USA**

We, FMKI (Forum of Indonesian Catholic Society) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia will fast and pray regularly on Wednesday and Friday during Lent 2013 to express our solidarity with the Syrian civilian population. What we do will hopefully encourage our brothers and sisters to feel secure and keep strong in spirit through the joys and anxieties.

**Andreas Joko Wicoyo, Indonesia**

Our Carmelite –Vedrunas ( [www.vedruna.org](http://www.vedruna.org)) community will live these days in solidarity through rotating fasts and constant prayer because we believe that "This kind of evil (of war and violence) can be forced out only by prayer and fasting" Mt. 17:21 We send our love and gratitude and respect to our sisters and brothers and will send any proceeds of money not spent on food to one of their solidarity organizations.

**Maureen Foltz, USA**

I am with you in your struggle, and I pray daily for all, especially those suffering. I will join in the fast for peace in Syria.

**Jack Tischhauser, USA**

We had a discussion about fasting in solidarity with the Syrian people at our breakfast table this morning. We all agreed we will give up bread – including mom age 40, dad age 43, William age 6 and Lachlan age 3. William also wanted to know if the toy factories in Syria had been destroyed along with bread factories. He was very concerned that the boys and girls would have things to play with and volunteered to give up a few of his trucks in solidarity too.

**Sarah Welch, USA**

I will fast for my brothers and sisters in Syria and for the Syrian refugees in Lebanon my home country. Thank you for your campaign! I feel as one family, we hold great Hope and Power!

**Charbel Matar, Lebanon**

Nothing is more painful at the moment than the situation of the Syrian people!

**Eugen Dabbous, USA**

My sisters and brothers in Syria. I will fast from dairy products during these weeks of Lent as a prayer of solidarity with you in this difficult time. May justice and peace be yours.

**Anne McCarthy, USA**

Syria, I want to say that I am thinking of you compassionately everyday as I advocate and educate others about the multitude of troubles you face each and every day. I will fast during the month of lent to show my solidarity and participation with people of all faiths and backgrounds. I fast for a just peace in Syria.

**Elizabeth Katlyn, Belgium**

Today I Fast For Syria in memory of those who took to the streets to ask for the end of their humiliation and the defeat the Kingdom of Silence (as Syrian dissident Riad at-Turk falls it in Ali Atassi's brilliant documentary Ibn al-'amm). For two years, all of Syria has been paying a terrible price. Every day I think of its suffering and of the courage of those who continue their struggle.

**Brigitte Herremans, Belgium**

"Every request needs humility of spirit. Fast then, and you will receive from the Lord what you ask."  
- I am praying. My love and prayers..."

**Ana Henríquez, El Salvador**

"We fast in order to unite ourselves with the poor - to taste their empty lives, to weep over their sad and hungry children, to feel their helplessness. Fasting is the way towards home. Home is God's family of the entire human race where the majority go to bed hungry." - In solidarity with you all our dear sisters and brothers in Syria.

**Genie Natividad, Tanzania**

Although I don't know a single soul from Syria, I have been following the news and I am outraged by the disregard of the international community for the sufferings of Syrian civilians. As an act of solidarity, all I can do is keep a strict fast (no food, just water, 24 hours) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and no meat during lent. It is definitely not much but may keep your hopes alive that people from other countries do know about you.

**Rita Szilágyi, Hungary**

I am fasting and praying that the fighting will soon come to an end and you will be able to live in peace without fear.

**Mary Tacheny , USA**

Dear Syrian People, Your acute suffering causes my heart to bleed. I earnestly plead to God to hear the cry of the poor in your country and all those who are suffering unspeakable crimes. I have chosen to fast on Fridays during Lent to bring an end to the war and violence raining down on your people. I believe there is hope. I believe God hears the cry of the poor and that violence will cease....May you trust in the power of prayer to transform hearts and bring about an end to the violence. May the peace of Jesus be with you.

**Mary Jeanne Davidson, USA**

You are not alone. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Peace.

**Colleen McCann, Ireland**

I will fast and pray for peace in Syria

**Sue McCarthy Palmer, USA**

Any suffering is such an undesirable thing. My prayers and sympathies are with the suffering people of Syria.

**Sebastian KM, USA**

Please know that we hold you close to our hearts in the horrible disruption of your peaceful lives that you are experiencing. We realize that this could happen to any of us, the lowly, peace-loving people of the earth who find ourselves at the mercy of the powerful who wield weapons in the hope of getting their way, with no regard to the suffering they are causing to the innocent. Such is the way of the world from time immemorial, but we know it is not God's way. Your families are like our families, and we pray that you will all remain strong and open to giving and receiving peace and love in caring for each other in your common suffering. We know that God can and will empower us to overcome evil in ourselves and in our daily relations with those around us--this we can do, no matter what happens on a larger scale. We will offer our own

fasting in solidarity with all of you as you struggle against the forces of evil arrayed against you and seek to maximize the forces of love and goodness wherever you are.

**Diane Kortan, USA**

"ich faste in solidarität mit dem leidenden syrischen volk. pax christi (siehe homepage) macht eine solidaritätsaktion in der fastenzeit...fände schön, wenn viele von euch botschaften schicken oder sogar mit-fasten..."

**Barbara Ruthardt-Horneber, Germany**

Meine Solidarität gilt den Opfern der Gewalt und den Menschen, die ohne Gewalt für eine bessere Welt eintreten. Ich selber lehne den Einsatz von Gewalt und Töten als Mittel zum Durchsetzen von Zielen grundsätzlich ab. So wäre auch ich gegenüber gewaltbereiten Menschen sicher schnell ein Opfer. Was kann ich tun? Ich verfüge nicht über genug Kenntnisse über Syrien. Ich habe keine Macht politisch Einfluss auf die Konfliktparteien zu nehmen. Aber ich weiß mich solidarisch mit Menschen, die Gewalt und Not ausgesetzt sind. So veranlassen mich die fortwährenden Meldungen aus Syrien, mich für ein Ende der Gewalt einzusetzen und Opfern der Gewalt zu helfen. Ich will das gern durch Fasten, Beten und Spenden tun. Ich werde ab dem 18.

**Horst-Peter Rauguth, Germany**

Deinem Beispiel werde ich auch noch folgen. Clemens Ronnefeld werden wir am Karfreitag zu einer Infoveranstaltung einladen. Er kann uns bestimmt über die Situation berichten.

**Waltraud Andruet, Pax Christi Austria**

Be assured of my prayers and fasting for all the Syrian civilians particularly on Mondays. May God give His good people the peace they so long to have! In my love and prayers,

**Sr William Ann, SSND, USA**

God give you strength and hope in this difficult time. Prayers are with you. It takes the sun and the rain to make a rainbow. Happy rainbow days.

**Sheryl Hughes-Empke, USA**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, My prayers are with you and for you. I pray that you will be strengthened by the Lord to persevere. God be with you,

**Bernadette Alfieri, Italy**

Queremos expresar nuestro sentimiento de solidaridad para con el pueblo de Siria, pues ningún ser humano merece vivir una vida tan poco digna y tan poco humana. Nosotros nos unimos en oraciones y en ayuno y en cada tiempo de comida, pediremos a Dios por el pueblo de Siria. Alabamos y nos parece grande esta campaña de Pax Christi en favor de los más desfavorecidos, los pobres de Siria.

**Marcelina Girón, Mexico**

Each day, I watch the tragedy taking place in Syria. I have wondered what I can do. I have prayed, now I will take a quiet moment at 5 each evening to remember the people and the land, and I will fast from evening snacks until the end of lent.

**Connie Krautkremer, USA**

Dear people of Syria, Please know of my prayers for your safety and for an end to the violence you are all experiencing. I will continue to remember you in my prayers each day.

**Sr. Carol Fox, USA**

To whom it may concern: Please count me in in Fasting for the people of Syria - ALL of them! Maybe together we can convert some hearts and fill some stomachs with good food. Thank you for the opportunity to do so. God bless the good work you do for and with others.

**Sister Mary Lisa Novak, SND, USA**

I am praying that the bloodshed in your country will end soon and that you can return to your homes.

**Glenna Wickline, USA**

It may not seem that we are with you, but you are very much in our thoughts and prayers. Every day we pray for you and hope that your suffering will end soon. PEACE will come. Do not give up hope. We truly are with you and for you.

**Eleanor MacLellan, USA**

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Syria. May God grant them peace and security. In prayerful support, I will be fasting on Tuesday, February 19. May the people of Syria be strengthened and supported by the prayer, fasting, and support of many.

**Margaret Kavanagh, USA**

I plan on fasting in solidarity for those who are hungry in Syria.

**Molly Nelson, USA**

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Syria, Greetings of peace from Long Island New York. We are a small local Catholic peace group just outside of the City of New York. We are mainly older persons, parents, grandparents, Roman Catholic nuns and priests. We feel so powerless and overwhelmed when we hear news of our country. We know you are suffering greatly. But unlike pain caused by a natural disaster, it would seem that this terrible suffering could be ended by human will. Yet it goes on and on. So we unite with you in prayer to God, knowing God hears us no matter what name we employ. And we beg that our prayer and fasting for peace move God's heart so that human hearts may also be converted from violence. We have only our solidarity and prayer to offer you. But we want you to know that you are not alone.

**Pax Christi Long Island, USA**

I will be fasting on 2/20, 2/28, 3/5, 3/12, 3/21, and 3/29. It is too little for such hardships that the people of Syria must bear; I will be praying for them as well. In solidarity.

***Diane Lopez Hughes, USA***

Al maanden zie ik op tv de gruwelen van de oorlog in uw land. Hoe uw kinderen worden neergemaaid en jonge mannen hun leven geven in de strijd om vrijheid. Hoe het regime u wil klein krijgen in uw legitieme strijd voor vrijheid en democratie en zelf aan de macht probeert te blijven via een niets ontziende vernietigingsoorlog. Hoe u de meest noodzakelijke levensmiddelen ontbeert en ook veel medische hulp u niet kan bereiken. Hoe uw mooie land op de rand van de afgrond wordt gebracht in een mensonterende machtsstrijd. Misschien bent u een moslim, misschien een christen, misschien bent u helemaal niet religieus maar u bent in elk geval 'een mens' met wie ik uit solidariteit wil 'honger' naar een uitweg uit het conflict door op 28/3 - 29/3 - 30/3 slechts een licht ontbijt te nemen. Ik houd tevens een bescheiden blog bij waarin ik via enkele posts in de periode van 14/2/2013 tot 31/03/2013 probeer te berichten over de complexe situatie in uw land. Ook mijn gebedsintenties gaan uit naar u allen. Vrede en alle goeds.

***Frieda Peeters Dag, Belgium***

I am the responsible for Pax Christi Ghent in Belgium and with our Group and sympathizers we had a day of fasting and prayer on the first day of lent. During lent we fast each Friday and say midday prayer in our chapel in Ghent in the house where we live and study the church fathers.

***Dries van Ootegem, Belgium***

Bijgevoegd een kleine bijdrage tot de Vastencampagne. De tekst eindigt met een citaat uit de Koran, soerat 49,9-10. Ik heb geen Engelse versie van dit citaat gevonden. PCI beschikt misschien wel over een Engelse Koran? Om de juiste referentie te kunnen opsporen voeg ik er ook de Nederlandse versie bij, want sommige koran vertalingen volgen een andere nummering van de soerats. Ik heb op aswoensdag meegevast voor Syrië. Nog een zalige vastentijd en een vlotte reis naar India.

***Mary Beth Moore, Belgium***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Syria and those who are refugees in other countries, We read about and see your terrible struggles: those of you who are cold and hungry; those of you who have lost loved ones; those of you who fear for your own lives. We pray for strength and support of all of you and for all who try to meet your needs for safety, food and drink, education. In sorrow and in anger, we recall the way you have been betrayed by your leader and pray that a just peace may come to Syria as soon as possible.

***Joan Hart and Mary Irving, USA***

During our Monday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of the Ozark Parish in Forsyth, MO, one of the intentions each week during Lent will be for the suffering people of Syria. Just peace in Syria will also be one of the parish intentions for our Sunday liturgy on March 3. I will also fast on Tuesday, March 5, to show my solidarity with the Syrian people.

***Charlotte Flarlong, USA***

I will join in with others to fast on Mondays during Lent for an end to the unrest in Syria. Sister  
**Margaret Roozen SSND, USA**

I wish to be a supporter of the PAX CHRISTI initiative to FAST for Syria. My day will be Wednesday.  
Thank you.

**Barbara Badanish, USA**

I pray every day for all those who suffer, but mostly the children. May God protect you and give  
you strength.

**Marykay Brooks, USA**

My dear sisters and brothers in Syria: as your sister in God's family I promise to pray and fast for  
your speedy relief from war.

**Rita Bueche, SSND, USA**

Dear people of Syria, Just to let you know that you are not forgotten and that you are in my  
prayers daily.

**Eileen Donohoe SSND, USA**

People of Syria, please know we are watching and listening -- as a symbol of our solidarity, our  
family is forgoing all bread during Lent. May your breadlines become safe and bountiful.

**Catherine Grosso and Stephen Gasteyer, USA**

I assure the people of Syria of my daily prayers for peace for them and that peace and justice  
may be established in that suffering country. God bless each one and give you peace.

**Jo Langley, USA**

Message from Central Methodist Church, Clay Cross, Derbyshire, England (Borders Mission  
Circuit) At our recent Lent Meeting held on Monday, February 25th 2013, the suffering of the  
civilian communities in Syria was brought to our notice. We shall remember them in our prayers  
and thoughts and should be grateful if you would pass on this information to your contacts in  
Syria. Yours in Christ.

**Jennifer Turvey, England**

I will fast in solidarity with the Syrian people on March 7th.... "You are in my heart and in my  
prayers. I see my family and myself in you. We remember you. Bless you."

**Tracy Knapp, USA**

Bien unie, en communauté internationale, à toutes les personnes qui prient pour vous, Oui, nous  
nous associons au jeûne de ce temps de Carême pour que la paix revienne et la justice.

**Catherine Barange, France**

"My family would also like to give up something to demonstrate our solidarity with Syria. One of my children is giving up eggs and the rest of the family is giving up bread during lent. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all."

**Victoria Sweet, USA**

"This is a great initiative! BTW, I remember a Pax Christi Austria panel on the war in former Yugoslavia back in the early 90s. There were people there from various confessions discussing their specific faith's message on peace and social justice. I spoke for the Mennonites and Taufers (Anabaptists) in general. It was very informative. Maybe we can do something like that here in Beirut for Syria."

**Eugen Dabbous, Lebanon**

Per la Siria digiuniamo una settimana a giorni alterni a partire da oggi 13 febbraio 2013

**Rosalba Panaro, Italy**

Muchas gracias por su mensaje y sobre todo por las propuestas tan significativas por la paz en Siria. Difundiremos esta campaña y le estaremos informando sobre las acciones de solidaridad que realicemos. Atento y cordial saludo.

**Sr. Julia Arciniegas, Italy**

Vi sono vicino: auguro a tutto il popolo siriano di ritrovare la Pace e poter vivere questo periodo in serenità e fraternità tra tutti.

**Paolo Bertagnolli Bolzano, Italy**

I pledge a weekly fast to raise awareness for the plight of the people of Syria. You are not alone!

**KC Young, USA**

Dear God of all Creation You have blessed us with the gifts of the earth in abundance, so that all may have life. Give us insight so that we may understand the ways in which we are all connected in this human family; Open our ears to the cry of the people of Syria in their time of conflict and suffering; Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh, so that we may act with compassion. As we are forgiven, let us also forgive. Beside the city of Bethsaida in Galilee, Jesus welcomed the crowds and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured; (Luke 9: 11) he blessed and broke the loaves and fish and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. (Luke 9: 16, 17) Let us recognize God's kingdom here on earth. Let us open our hands, put down our weapons, and give to those in need so that all may have bread. We pray for just peace for the people of Syria. We ask this in your name, through Jesus Christ your Son.

**Pax Christi Toronto, Canada**

The members of Pax Christi Toronto, Canada, pray for an end to violence against the Syrian people. On Friday February 15 we will fast and pray in solidarity with those who suffer even without bread and the necessities for life. We pray for those who persecute you that their hearts may be turned to good. We will share this message with others so that together we may strive for



true humanitarian assistance and a just peace in Syria. We will continue to pray for peace and fast each Friday throughout the Bread is Life campaign.

**Rosemary Keenan, Canada**

Dear Syrian Brothers and Sisters, I write to assure you that you are in my prayers and the prayers of countless people who long for peace in your homeland. We know that people are not governments and that people simply want to be able to live their lives in safety, security, health, and happiness. We pray for an end to the many conflicts among numerous factions in your society. We pray for a restoration of harmony and mutual respect among citizens. We pray that those who have brought so much pain and suffering to Syria will experience a conversion of heart and a transformation of deeds. As Christians entering the penitential season of Lent, we repent our own complicity in your pain and suffering. May our prayers and fasting bring you peace.

**Rosemarie Pace, USA**

Greetings from PCUSA. Just wanting to let you know that PCUSA is sharing this information with our Regions, Local entities and High School groups. We continue to collaborate with PCI and wish to be in solidarity with the Syria people. Peace and continued blessings.

**Sr. Patty Chappell, USA**

Prezados amigos de Pax Christi, Obrigada por nos lembrar da triste situação de homens e mulheres na Síria. Sim, eu vou jejuar amanhã, dia 09 de fevereiro de 2013. Muito obrigada, um forte abraço.

**Marianne Spiller, Brazil**

I want to say that I am thinking of you compassionately. It is not right or just what is happening to you and your country of Syria. I will be praying for you every day, and fasting on Fridays (no meat) for six weeks with good intentions for your betterment. With care and concern for all the Syrian people.

**Carolyn McDonnell, USA**

Notre équipe PX de Fontenay sous Bois dans le diocèse de Créteil organise jeudi prochain un temps de prière et une écoute de témoignage du Père jésuite Ziad HILAL de passage en France pour seulement quelques jours. Je te joins le tract annonce.

**Bernard Georgeot, France**

A Goma nous venons de prendre connaissance du message et nous t'en remercions. Nous allons nous joindre aux hommes et femmes de bonne volonté en vue de compatir avec nos frères et soeurs de la Syrie comme signe de solidarité afin de voir, le pain, la paix et la justice triompher en regagnant l'espace vital des populations les plus vulnérables. Nous vivons des drames similaires à Goma. Nous savons et nous nous imaginons à quel le degré ils souffrent et nous pouvons promettre notre solidarité dans le sens d'observer une mortification de un à trois jours pour ceux qui seront capable.

**Innocent Bashengezi, Democratic Republic of Congo**

LiebeFreunde, am 8. März habe ich in Solidarität mit euch gefastet. Gottes Segen, mit herzlichen Grüßen.

**Josefa Britzelmeier-Nann, Germany**

I will join in the Fast for Syria on Thursday 2/28/13

**Pat Gallogly, USA**

"People of Syria, we are with you!"

**Charles Irudayam, India**

Dear People of Syria, I am praying and fasting for your country, your people and your families. It is terrible to watch the destruction and pain of your people. We are in solidarity with all of your suffering and will continue to pray that life will return to normal and there will be peace very soon. I will fast on Wednesday, March 13 to remind myself what it is like for you everyday to go without bread. Peace.

**Madeline Labriola, USA**

Shalom! Ich verpflichte mich am 11. und 18. 3. 13 aus Solidarität mit dem syrischen Volk zu fasten. Meine Botschaft: Mein Leben in Deutschland ist geprägt von Versöhnung und Frieden nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg. Dafür bin ich dankbar. Was mir geschenkt ist, wünsche ich auch den Menschen in Syrien: Ein sofortiges Ende der Gewalt, Sicherheit, Befriedigung der Grundbedürfnisse, Demokratie, Rechtsstaatlichkeit, Versöhnung ....Ich will meinen Beitrag durch fasten und Gebet dazu leisten.

**Maria Gierse, Germany**

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to express my solidarity with you who are trying to survive in Syria or live as refugees in surrounding countries. I am ashamed that the international community is not able to stop the atrocities and murders. Together with the peace movement Pax Christi I advocate for effective humanitarian assistance and I urge for the end of the violence and I call to respect the life of all Syrians and for a just peace. In solidarity.

**Marcel De Prins, USA**

Peace and blessings to everyone in Syria from Judith Kelly, a Pax Christi Pentagon Area member in Arlington, Virginia, USA. I made a Lenten commitment to fast every day between breakfast and dinner, taking liquids only in between. I consider this is a modified version of the Ramadan fast. In 2011, after a brief visit to Afghanistan with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, I did the authentic Ramadan fast for the first time, and in 2012 I was able to do it again --both wonderful experiences. I pray to continue a lifelong practice of spiritual solidarity. May our prayers and fasting reach the God of us all and bring some comfort to those of you in Syria who are enduring great hardships.

**Judith Kelly, USA**

The Indian Women Theologians' Forum has pledged to join in by fasting on one day during lent for a just peace in Syria. One member has offered to fast for a full week.

**Virginia Saldanha, India**

Our new chapter is fasting and praying for peace in Syria today March 15.  
**Pax Christi Southwest Florida, USA**

Thinking of saying a prayer for the children of Syria today who have suffered and still are suffering so much.  
**Carmel Charlton, USA**

People of Syria, I was in Palestine/Israel 12 months ago looking over the border at your beautiful country. We are with you in your pain and struggle.  
**Alison Mckenzie, USA**

Please know that you are all in our prayers and will be particularly this Lenten time. May the blessing of peace deliver you all from your pain and suffering. A donation has been sent to CAFOD for their work bringing aid to the Syrian people.  
**Anne Marie Coppock, USA**

"The Western Province of the Sisters of St. Mary has been invited to join in the fast for a just peace in Syria. Several have responded but I believe that many of our sisters will fast and pray on Friday. We join in this united effort.  
**Sister Mary Merdian, USA**

"Be assured that the four of us at Mercy Community in Wichita Falls will join in the prayer for Syria on Friday, March 15th. Only the Lord can move the hearts of those who are responsible for the killing and destruction of the country of Syria. We believe in the power of prayer and fasting."  
**Sr. Patricia Ste. Marie, USA**

"Ici aussi au 101 Parent nous respecterons un jeûne, le 15 mars. Nous avons invité les étudiantes qui vivent avec nous à y participer. Nous en avons discuté ensemble et l'annonce est mise sur le réfrigérateur.  
**Soeur Marie Pierre Delorme, Canada**

"Thank you for the invitation to pray seriously for Syria. Tomorrow, March 15, I join you all in that prayer".  
**Sr. Mary Frances Serafino, USA**

The sisters in the UK will be united in the communal fast for the people of Syria on Friday 15th. Thank you for having invited us to this act of solidarity.  
**Sister Ann Elizabeth, UK**

"Thank you so much for this joint effort of intercession. Together on March 15th, we stand united before God."  
**Sister Fernande Levac, Dominican Republic**

"We, in the Generalate of the Sisters of St. Mary, are joining you in prayer and fasting for the suffering people of Syria. May the Lord hear the cries of these people. In communion,"  
**Sr. Maureen Quinn, Belgium**

Thanks so much for writing this beautiful letter. Count me in on March 15th.

**Sister Jeanne Clark, USA**

I will fast to show my solidarity with the people of Syria and to experience a tiny bit of the hunger that constantly surrounds them. I hope that the damage to this beautiful country will stop soon and that peace will come along with change. My heart goes out to all the people who are suffering.

**Julie Bonette, USA**

"I will fast from bread for the rest of Lent in solidarity with the people of Syria. You are in my prayers."

**Fran Plut Buczynski, USA**

Cari fratelli siriani, quello che ci sconvolge di più è l'assordante silenzio del mondo che guarda distratto la strage degli innocenti. Preghiera e digiuno saranno il mio pane per voi, nostri fratelli in Cristo Gesù.

**Fernando Andolfi, Italy**

Dans notre communauté religieuse, comme à l'Eucharistie de la paroisse, nous prions pour le peuple syrien si cruellement atteint. Nous prions pour les victimes de la guerre, les familles endeuillées. Que le pouvoir cesse ses attaques meurtrières inhumaines. Que le peuple puise la force pour se reconstruire, reconstruire le pays et connaisse des jours de paix et de réconciliation dans la justice. et l'unité, le respect des différentes croyances. Je fais suivre votre invitation à mon réseau. Que les forces de vie triomphent sur les forces de mort grâce à Celui qui est mort et ressuscité. Bien sûr nous jeunerons. Bien amicalement.

**Jeanne Poncin, France**

Mi sento impotente davanti alla vostra sofferenza, ma vi dichiaro la mia solidarietà che esprimo con preghiera e digiuno.

**Antonietta, Italy**

Amigos y amigas de PCI, reciban un gran abrazo desde Chiapas, México. Estamos unidos todas y todos por la paz en Siria y en el mundo. Abrazos.

**Jorge Hernández / Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas, Mexico**

I am praying for the people of Syria and that peace prevails there, and that there are no more tears and hunger. We are with you in solidarity.

**Avvari Shouri, IDEA - Initiatives In Development Empowerment and Awareness Society, India**

Fasting is an extraordinary and powerful prayer. Each day in Lent will be a day of total fast in prayer in solidarity with Syria.

**Liliette Ouellette, Canada**

Estaremos juntas no jejum pela Síria, Obrigada pelo convite. com o abraço da comunidade de poço Verde.

**Ir. Valmira ssmn, Brazil**

Dear madams/sirs: thank you for your concern for the Syrian people. Today I heard about the Bread is Life Fast for a Just Peace in Syria, and I hope to join your campaign.

**Suha Ziedan, Syria**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Dear Friends in Christ, We your friends at Pax Christi Austria are very concerned about your state of life under civil war conditions. Empathically we try to imagine how your actual difficulties have started: We imagined a possible "Arabic Spring" and hoped for a better democratic society in your country. We were very disappointed: Nothing seems to have been left of our and your hopes. We hoped so much for a just political solution to your unbearable conditions of life – and it became worse. "Bread is Life" is the "Fast for a just Peace in Syria" campaign, promoted by Pax Christi International among its members. There will be a good number of groups and individuals in Austria also who will follow this program in one way or other: Fasting and praying as we reflect on your fate... Do you think you can follow our hopeful prayer? After the horror of persecution, arrest and the condemnation of Jesus, resurrection followed on the Third Day! In our prayers we cling to this very strong awareness of our faith! May this also be your hope. God will be with you and guide you to a better future – in this world! God is Love! Shalom/Salaam to you.

**GerhildeMerz, Pax Christi Austria**

I fully support the aims of the campaign for Syrian refugees.

**Nick Agocs, Austria**

Ce lundi 18 mars 2013, à l'appel de Pax Christi France et réunis en groupe de prière à Leers (59115), nous avons demandé le secours du Seigneur pour votre peuple ravagé et meurtri, et nous continuerons de prier pour vous. Fraternellement.

**Anne-Marie Spriet, France**

Bonjour amis syriens, Nous sommes une petite équipe de Pax Christi à Lyon, France et nous voulons vous assurer de notre solidarité dans les épreuves que vous vivez, nous prions pour vous et pour la Paix et nous avons jeuner le vendredi 8 mars en union avec vos difficultés matérielles et vos privations dans un climat d'insécurité constant. unis en Christ avec vous, gardons l'espérance!

**Marielle Colombe et André, Solange, France**

Met pijn in het hart leven we mee met het lijden van kinderen, vrouwen, mannen en ouderen in Syrië.

**Stijn Hellemans, Belgium**

To the children women and men of Syria: I don't know war but see it's awful history & horrors; I don't know true lasting hunger. Still when I hope for PEACE in our World & I pray, I cannot shield myself just thinking that it is so far away. I know this IS NEAR. I DO GRIEVE WITH YOU & you most especially are and always will be, with me in my praying. MORE PEACE... & LESS Pieces.

**Adam Bartley, USA**

Hello, To all my friend in Syria and those I worked with in 2008, ironically with Iraqi refugees my heart goes out to you in your suffering and I know it must seem like we in the rest of the world forget you. Not so. Your kindness and hospitality to me during my time there has left a deep impression on my heart and memory. I will fast a day in solidarity with you coming up to Good Friday when your suffering is united with the suffering of Christ.

**Bernie McGonigle, Ireland**

Ce vendredi 22 mars, les membres du Conseil d'administration de Pax Christi Montréal ont décidé de vivre une journée de jeûne dans le cadre de la campagne de carême de Pax Christi International; LE PAIN, C'EST LA VIE.

**Gisèle Turcot, Québec**

Antennes de paix/Pax Christi Montréal organisation membre du réseau Pax Christi International, envoie à nos chers frères et sœurs de Syrie ses vœux de solidarité et d'amour pendant ce temps de lutte et de souffrance dans votre pays. Nous reconnaissons et déplorons les grandes injustices et la violence faites aux personnes innocentes. L'attaque aux boulangeries empêchant l'achat du pain est un symbole dramatique du manque de respect pour la vie et pour les droits humains. En solidarité avec vous, nos membres vivent une journée de jeûne et de prière afin d'obtenir un arrêt de cette violence. Que le Dieu d'Amour de de Compassion soit avec vous. Et que le Dieu de Justice transforme la violence en bénédiction, pour que soit rétablie la dignité de toute personne dans un État juste.

**Mary-Ellen Francoeur, Canada**

I, as an American mother, citizen and Christian send you my prayers and respect that the international community will assist you and your children to gain peace in your nation.

**Karen Davis. USA**

"Our prayers for the people of Syria..."

**Deacon Hipolito, Canada**

I am fasting today for the people of Syria. I am praying that the reports of use of chemical weapons by the government (or others) are not true and that the war will end soon. I am also praying that we, as the human race, will be able to spend the time and effort to find successful ways to overcome conflict peacefully without the ravages that violence has brought to the people of Syria. I'm sure that such an effort will take prayer and spiritual lives much greater than we live now as well as human ingenuity being focused on these problems. If we spent 10% of the money we spend on weapons to help find more effective ways to peace, I'm sure we would have solid ways to move us towards non-violence in all of these areas and then we would just

need to be willing to implement them. Thanks for initiating this Lenten call for fasting and prayer for the people of Syria.

**Bob Cooke, USA**

To the people of Syria, I think it is absolutely horrible what is going on in your country. I pray and hope that respect will grow into the mind of every person, not only the leaders, so that fear and aggression will turn into peace. For all this I wish you all very much courage! My prayers and thoughts are with you, that you may heal in true Peace.

**Kathy D'Antonio, USA**

Dear Pax Christi folks, the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland stands and prays in solidarity with the people of Syria during this Holy Week. Some of us will be fasting, and all hold the sufferings of the people as one with Christ's suffering this week. We pray for an end to violence and for a just and lasting peace. God's blessings.

**Mary Betz. New Zealand**

We have circulated the "Bread is Life" project around all our members and also around partner agencies like Caritas and Justice and Peace Commissions. We know that the Auckland Diocesan JP Commission has recommended it to their members which include all the parishes in the Diocese of Auckland, so it is getting good publicity. At our monthly Pax Christi Collective meeting, we decided to declare Wednesday 27 March as our national day of response, recommending to all our members and those on our mailing list that this be a national day of fasting for Syria. Members have been asked to notify their parishes to encourage parishioners to join in. Our local parish of St Peter's Waiheke Island has advertised this to all parishioners while our parish Pax Christi group will be sharing prayers for Syria following our Wednesday morning Mass as well as joining a common fast. We have also had a reply from the Dominican order in Auckland to say that they will be joining our fast and those Auckland people who meet for meditation in the Peace Place where we have our offices will also be joining in. I would be grateful if you would pass this news on to our partners in Syria on behalf of Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand. We have also suggested to individuals and groups that they might find ways to inform people in Syria of their actions. Thank you for initiating and sharing this action which has caught the imagination of many people in Pax Christi and the local community.

**Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand**

I am fasting in solidarity.

**Lacy Kroska, USA**

Je viens de lire le message: "Le pain, c'est la vie..." Je ne peux que m'associer à Pax Christ pour dénoncer les faits infligés au peuple syrien. Ils sont dans une si grande détresse : bombardements, faim, traumatismes de toutes sortes.... Je veux les assurer de ma solidarité dans la prière pour qu'ils aient la force et le courage de résister, pour qu'une assistance humanitaire puisse se déployer pour eux et non au bénéfice de l'Armée libre de Syrie, pour que MSF puisse poursuivre son action auprès des blessés. Dites leur qu'ils sont dans ma prière et dans mon coeur.

**Marie Therese Thelisson, France**

We are a small group of friends who took up the challenge to fast for Syria this lent. We wish them to know that all our thoughts and prayers are with them at this dreadful time, and the money saved has gone to relief work agencies.

**Mary Barnes, Germany**

Im Rahmen der paxchristi international Fastenaktion "Bread for life" wende ich mich an Syrerinnen und Syrer, Liebe Menschen in Syrien und im Exil, derzeit in Deutschland die jährlichen Ostermärsche für Frieden und Abrüstung statt. In diesem Jahr demonstrieren wir besonders auch dafür, dass endlich die Waffen in Syrien schweigen. Es tut weh, Tod und Leid und das Flüchtlingselend, das durch den Krieg erzeugt wird, mitanzusehen, und wir bitten unsere Regierung um Hilfe für die Flüchtlinge. Als Friedensbewegung halten wir weiterhin Ausschau nach nicht-militärischen Wegen wie beispielsweise [www.peaceinsyria.org](http://www.peaceinsyria.org). und unterstützen diese. Persönlich möchte ich besonders am Karfreitag beim Ostermarsch in Stuttgart an die Menschen in Syrien denken und für sie beten. In herzlicher Verbundenheit

**Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler, Germany**

Dear all, During past Lent time our Flemish/Belgian section of Pax Christi has participated in the campaign of Pax Christi International "Pray and Fast for Peace in Syria: Bread is Life". All that time we suffered with you and we intervened for you, the people of Syria, who are struggling in great pain for a better life. May violence come to an end. May peace with justice come back very soon to your great and beautiful country. May peace and justice be realized in respect for the dignity of every child, woman and man in Syria. May non-violence and dialogue open hearts and minds for a new and enduring peace. At the same time we urge the politicians in Belgium and the European Union to do much more for all the refugees and the victims of violence and oppression inside and outside Syria.

**Jozef Hanssens, Belgium**