



Dehonians USA

PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART

April 9, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In recent weeks, our hearts have been heavy as we witness the profound unfolding distress caused by the escalating crisis in the Middle East. We have watched a recurring cycle of conflict, with missile launches resulting in the tragic loss of life, including schoolchildren. The ripples of suffering transcend borders, affecting lives worldwide amid a fragile global economy and the burden of high inflation. In response to these challenges, the pursuit of peace is an urgent necessity.

Scripture invites us to contemplate the profound peace that God desires for all creation. The Hebrew prophets, serving as God's spokesperson and as the moral conscience of the nation, offered a sharp critique of warfare while proclaiming a divine vision of restoration. They hoped for a future in which nations learn war no more, and people turn their swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks (Isa 2:4).

This prophetic vision finds ultimate expression in the life and mission of Jesus. He shattered the cycle of retaliation, teaching that violence is never the remedy for violence. In the Garden of Gethsemane, when Peter drew his sword in defense of Jesus, Jesus commanded him to put it away, warning that "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matt 26:52). Through his words and actions, Jesus offers us a poignant reminder that our identity is found in reconciliation: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matt 5:9).

In the spirit of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, Pope Leo has invited the faithful and all people of goodwill to join him in a special day of prayer on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**. I invite you to pray with the Holy Father, whether in community or in the quiet of your own heart, to intercede for peace, for those suffering amid conflict, for wisdom to guide the hearts of our leaders, and for the healing of our world.

In the Peace of Christ,

Very Rev. Vien V. Nguyen, SCJ
Priests of the Sacred Heart
US Provincial Superior