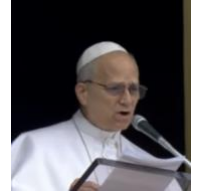


JPIC Resource Bulletin 3/26/2026 Action for Peace:

In a time of war and terror, we pray in solidarity with the innocent of every country, for the mothers who cry out to God to spare their children, knowing in anguish that some will not be spared. Pope Francis’ voice is in our ears: “No more war. Never again war.” The jubilee of hope in 2025 has become a jubilee of action for peace in this year of St Francis. Pope Leo has urgently sought peace from all parties since his election.

What is the Church’s position on the war in Iran and Lebanon?

The public message of the Church is unequivocal. As the pope stated on March 15: “In the name of the Christians of the Middle East and of all women and men of goodwill, I appeal to those responsible for this conflict: Cease fire! Let the paths of dialogue be reopened.”¹



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, recently [echoed the Holy Father’s sentiments](#): “My brother bishops and I unite our voice with our Holy Father and make the heartfelt appeal to all parties involved for diplomacy to regain its proper role.”

Do the current wars meet the conditions of Catholic “Just war” doctrine? It is a good time to refresh our knowledge from the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#). Many Church leaders, in the US and in other countries, are saying it [does not](#)². This could be a question for discussion in ongoing formation.

What is the Franciscan perspective?

The stories of St. Francis’ early disillusionment with war, his experiences with the Sultan in the 5th Crusade, his instructions to some missionaries against sowing discord, the expulsion of the demons from Arezzo, and most of all his rules against carrying arms, all present a picture of a peacemaker. His gentle treatment of creatures has made him a hero of today’s non-violence movements.

Our Rule calls for us to take courageous action for justice (#15) but we must take action from a platform of prayer and contemplation, which are to be “the soul of all we are and do.” (#8.) As Murray Bodo, OFM, said at the 50th anniversary of *The Journey and the Dream* in 2022, “[It does no good to] go to the UN and try to make peace, if you don’t have peace in your heart.”³ It is our practice of contemplation, especially the time we give to it, that helps us approach conflict with the disposition of peace.

Prayer:

Thank you to those who joined us for the Franciscan Crown Rosaries hosted by Michael Huck in the last couple of weeks. The reflections were beautiful, and I am with the many who said it was a comfort to be praying together at such a time.

Action:

- One thing we can all do is contact our congressional delegations, and kick it up a notch with a scheduled office visit, or ZOOM meeting. The best place to get started is the [USCCB’s action page](#).
- If you plan to attend public events, be sure to bring peace and non-violence in your heart.
- Also, there are many Catholic institutions for giving alms: [Caritas](#), [Pro Terra Sancta](#), etc.

¹ Pope Leo XIV, [Angelus remarks, March 15, 2026](#).

² <https://www.ewtnnews.com/world/us/cardinals-just-war-iran>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBuYr-at7xM&t=2174>



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” Matthew 5, 9

Pope Leo’s Prayer to St. Francis

*Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.*

*You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.*

*You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.*

*In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.*

Amen