

Pastoral Prayer
January 12, 2025

Holy Spirit of love, mercy, and inspiration,

Our prayers go first to the people of Los Angeles who have been affected by the wildfires or who dwell beneath the shadow of their smoke clouds. We are stunned by the devastation, much as we were less than two years ago when fire swept through Lahaina driven by fierce winds. Moderate the winds, O God. Bring rain to cool the flames. Strengthen the firefighters and lend aid to the others responding to help. O God, be the help they need in the midst of the fire.

We pray your aid for those elsewhere in the world. Storms and earthquakes have devastated communities in Madagascar and China. Wars continue to rage in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Israel, Myanmar. Snow has swept across portions of the United States that lack the equipment to handle it. Amidst the tragedies writ large there are tragedies writ small: the deaths of loved ones, diagnoses of serious illnesses, job losses, relationships endings; so many sorrows. Bring comfort and bring hope to the sufferers. Bring guidance for journeys forward. Bring resources so that hurting people can find and contribute to their healing.

Holy Spirit, you are with us here. You are with us if we have begun the work to which you've summoned us. You are with us if we have just heard of a new direction from you. You are with us if we are discerning that direction, and examining the possibilities. You are with us. We are your children. With gratitude for your faithful presence, we pray.

Amen.