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The Pope's Prayer at Ground Zero

Here is the prayer of Benedict XVI when he visited Ground Zero in New York on the morning of Sunday, April 20th. "Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred," he prayed.

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O God of love, compassion, and healing,

look on us, people of many different
faiths and traditions,

who gather today at this site,

the scene of incredible violence and
pain.

We ask you in your goodness

to give eternal light and peace

to all who died here --

the heroic first-responders:

our fire fighters, police officers,

emergency service workers, and Port
Authority personnel,

along with all the innocent men and
women

who were victims of this tragedy

simply because their work or service

brought them here on September 11,
2001.

We ask you, in your compassion

to bring healing to those

who, because of their presence here
that day,

suffer from injuries and illness.

Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving
families

and all who lost loved ones in this
tragedy.

Give them strength to continue their
lives with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well

of those who suffered death, injury,
and loss

on the same day at the Pentagon and
in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Our hearts are one with theirs
as our prayer embraces their pain
and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace to our
violent world:

peace in the hearts of all men and
women

and peace among the nations of the
earth.

Turn to your way of love

those whose hearts and minds

are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding,

overwhelmed by the magnitude of
this tragedy,

we seek your light and guidance

as we confront such terrible events.

Grant that those whose lives were
spared

may live so that the lives lost here
may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us,
strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of
all.

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