

A PRAYER FOR PEACE AND MERCY IN SYRIA




In this Holy Year of Mercy Syria enters its fifth year of conflict.

250,000 people have lost their lives.

12.2 million people are in need of assistance, including five million children.

At least four million people have fled the country since the conflict started on 15 March 2011.

We stand with Syria and offer a special prayer of peace and mercy for its people.

A photograph of a family of five sitting outdoors under a thatched roof. In the foreground, a woman wearing a black hijab and a dark blue patterned sleeve rests her chin on her hand, looking thoughtfully to the side. Behind her, a young man in a white shirt looks in the same direction. To his left, a young girl in a blue shirt looks forward with a serious expression. In the background, a man in a yellow shirt holds a baby in a yellow and green outfit. The scene is set against a backdrop of trees and a thatched roof, suggesting a rural or traditional setting.

Creator of all,
Your name is mercy!



Hear the cries of the people of Syria



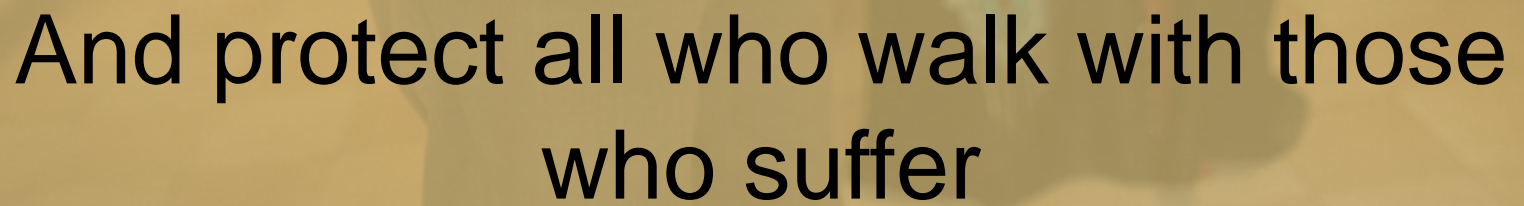
Comfort those who suffer violence,
Console those who mourn the dead

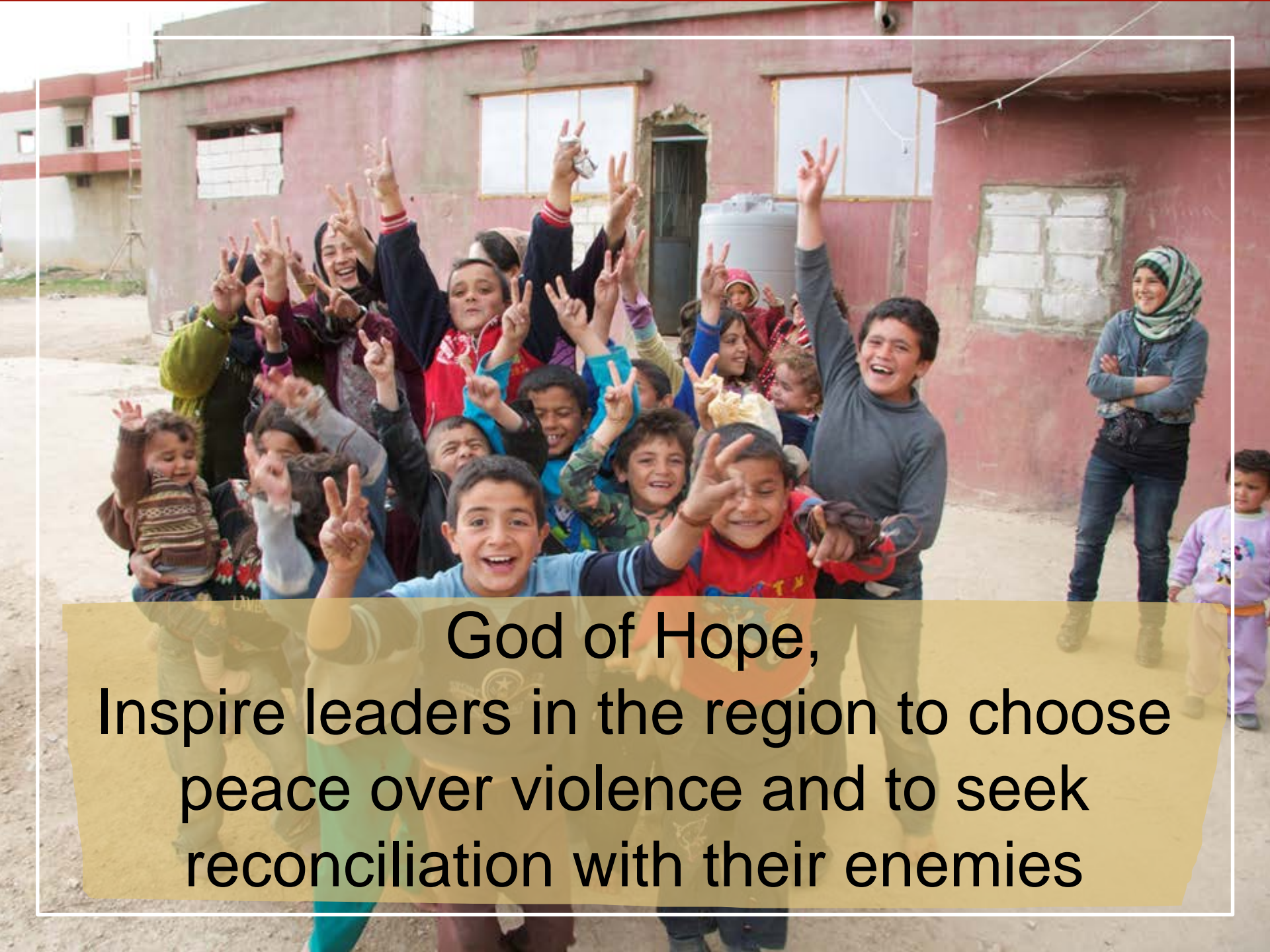


Give strength to Syria's near
neighbours to welcome the refugees

Soften the hearts of those who have
taken up arms







God of Hope,
Inspire leaders in the region to choose
peace over violence and to seek
reconciliation with their enemies

May your gift of mercy give us the
courage to raise awareness of their
suffering and turn indifference to
compassion



Inspire the Universal Church with
compassion for the people of Syria

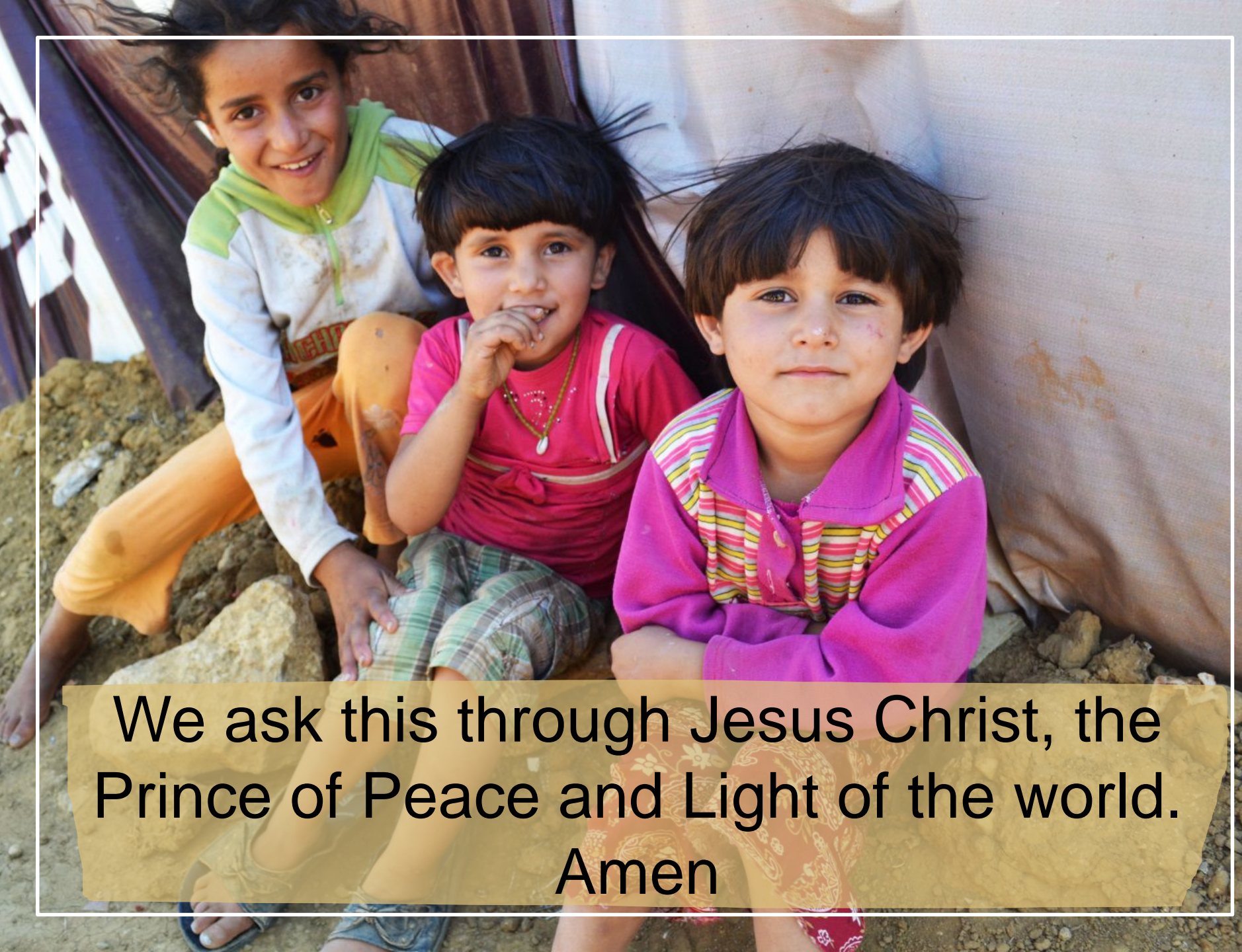


May the Church be your welcoming
face; make us a people of mercy



And give us hope for a future built on
enduring justice for all





We ask this through Jesus Christ, the
Prince of Peace and Light of the world.
Amen

PHOTO CREDITS

Caritas Switzerland

Caritas Syria

Catholic Relief Services

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Prayer adapted from Prayer from Catholics Confront Global Poverty,
a collaborative effort of USCCB and CRS

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End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity