



# The Holy See

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APOSTOLIC JOURNEY  
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS

**VISIT TO GROUND ZERO**

***PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI***

*Ground Zero, New York*  
*Sunday, 20 April 2008*

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.