

## **Bishop David Zubik asks for Prayers for Peace**

Statement from Bishop David Zubik, Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh:

As an already terrible war in the Middle East threatens to escalate, I ask everyone to pray for peace in the lands of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; of Ishmael and Hagar; of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. May the Prince of Peace intervene to replace anger and vengeance with reconciliation and peace. May Our Lady Queen of Peace intercede for the innocent and vulnerable, and especially open the hearts of those who have the power to end this war to bring peace to every heart and mind. May all of us look at our neighbors of every background, nationality, religion, and way of life, and see only beloved children of a God who loves them.

### **A Prayer for finding balance in the Holy Land**

Thomas Reese, SJ (from *National Catholic Reporter*)

God bless and protect the people of Israel. God bless and protect the people of Palestine.

God dam antisemitism; God dam Islamaphobia.

Israelis are children of God; Palestinians are children of God.

Jews are children of Abraham; Muslims are children of Abraham.

Israelis have a right to a homeland and a state; Palestinians have a right to a homeland and a state.

Israeli civilians should not be targeted; Palestinian civilians should not be targeted.

Israeli children are precious; Palestinian children are precious.

Humas should not hide in hospitals; Israel should not attack hospitals.

Israelis have a right to live in peace and freedom; Palestinians have a right to live in peace and freedom.

Hamas soldiers who attack Israeli civilians are terrorists; Israeli settlers who attack Palestinian civilians are terrorists.

Palestine cannot be “from river to the sea;” Israel cannot be “from the rivfer to the sea.”

Israelis need better leadership; Palestinians need better leadership.

Guns and bullets do not foster peace; food and water do not foster war.

Let the aid in; keep the weapons out.

Iran must stop arming Hamas and Hezbollah; the U.S. must stop arming Israel.

No more bombs; lots mor bread.

War brings famine; peace brings prosperity.

Israel and Palestine must live together, or they will die together.

Cease-fire now; release the hostages now.