

# Prayer on the occasion of the Beatification of Pope Paul VI, Founder of Caritas Internationalis

Almighty God, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Father,  
In accordance with the consideration of your love,  
In his time, for your Church and for the world, you inspired a Shepherd after your own heart, Pope Paul VI.

As the blessed day of his elevation to the honours of the altar approaches,  
We members of the Caritas Internationalis confederation,  
In communion with the whole Church, thank you and bless your Name,  
For this Shepherd, full of wisdom, goodness, intelligence and humility.

Sixty years ago, You inspired his providential initiative to create the Caritas Internationalis confederation,  
In order to contribute to the spread of justice and charity around the world,  
Walking in the footsteps of Your Son who came so that everyone may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance.

Blessed is he for his rich teaching and his constant appeals to bring the Good News to the heart of the realities of the world,  
In order to contribute to the promotion of each person and of the whole person,  
And thus become builders of peace and genuine reconciliation.

Blessed are you for all the men and women who were pioneers in the wonderful charitable work of Caritas Internationalis and its mission at the heart of the Church and the world.

Fill us with your love, as well as the men and women who are called on to continue this mission today,  
So that we may never forget that in serving the poor we are serving your Son,  
And that we will be judged according to the way we have treated the least of your brothers.

While current events bring us face to face with distressing situations that are affecting large numbers of our brothers and sisters,  
We turn to you and beseech you:

Listen to us, and through the intercession of the Blessed Pope Paul VI, answer our prayer,  
Arm us with faith, courage and hope so that we do not give up in the face of the tragedy,  
war and violence in the Middle East, South Sudan and the Central African Republic,

Heed our cry of distress in the face of the devastating Ebola virus epidemic  
that has already caused many victims in west Africa and risks spreading,  
Support the men and women who are striving to defeat it,  
Inspire the researchers who are working to find a means to overcome this new threat,  
Take pity on those who are dying from this disease,  
Do not forget the families and communities they belong to.

Now and always, give the members of our confederation a clear  
vision of what they should do and the strength to achieve it.  
May the Blessed Pope Paul VI intercede on our behalf.

