

# A Prayer for Murder Victims' Families

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God of merciful love,  
Help these families who are victims of murder  
To accept the reality of such senseless acts of violence  
Without, at the same time,  
Succumbing to the despair of so great a loss.  
May this violence become for them, instead,  
A steppingstone toward greater union with you.

Teach them the forgiveness that was exemplified  
By Jesus as he said,  
"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."  
And through his redemptive love,  
Show your mercy to the perpetrators of these crimes.

Fill the emptiness of their victim hearts  
With the fire of your divine love  
So as to transform their losses  
Into a healing power  
For themselves and for our world.

Amen.