

March 7, 2006

Dear Teacher,

The third anniversary of the war in Iraq will be, Sunday, March 19, 2006.

As we know, differing opinions concerning the war have and continue to cause disagreement and division within our world, our country, our communities and our schools. Unfortunately, deep felt feelings of many people keep us from talking and praying about the United States and the war in Iraq.

On January 13, 2006, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, chairman of the Committee of International Policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, released a statement entitled "Toward a Responsible Transition in Iraq". You will find an abridged version in this packet. The complete version can be found at: [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org).

We have used the sentiments of the Bishops' Statement to construct this prayer service. We asked students from different schools in the Cleveland Diocese to share their thoughts about the war in Iraq in order to have a consolidated statement from the Catholic Students for Peace and Justice. Please use this prayer and petition resource as you wish. We would encourage you to pray, together with your students, for peace in Iraq and our world, between March 13 – 24.

We also encourage you to make Peace Cranes. Please send the Peace Cranes to Molly Linehan at Notre Dame – Cathedral Latin (13000 Auburn Rd, Chardon OH, 44024) by March 27<sup>th</sup>. We will use the cranes for a display at different events in the Diocese and, in the fall, send them to Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima for the annual peace demonstration.

Thank you.

Peace,  
Chris Knestrick  
Molly Linehan