

Prayer for Children

We pray for children
Who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
Who like to be tickled,
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
Who sneak Popsicles before supper,
Who erase holes in math workbooks,
Who can never find their shoes

We pray for children
Who stare at photographers from behind broken windows,
Who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
Who never "counted potatoes,"
Who are born in places where we wouldn't be caught dead,
Who never go to the circus,
Who live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children
Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
Who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money,
Who cover themselves with Band-aids and sing off key,
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink,
Who slurp their soup.

We pray for children
Who never get dessert,
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
Who watch their parents watch them suffer,
Who can't find any bread to steal,
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for children
Who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: PRINTED MATERIALS

"PRAYERS"

Who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories,
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed, and never rinse out the
tub,
Who get visits from the tooth fairy,
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
Who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make
us cry.

We pray for children
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything,
Who have never seen a dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
Who live and move, but have no being,

We pray for children who want to be carried
And for those who must,
For those we never give up on and for those
Who don't get a second chance.

For those we smother...and for those who will grab the hand of
anybody

Kind enough to offer it.

Prayer of St Francis of Assissi

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy.

O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled but to
console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love
For it is in giving that I receive
It is in pardoning that I am pardoned;
And it is in dying that I am born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Pardon

Congregation:

Merciful God,
You pardon all that truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have been hard-hearted and tight-fisted toward our neighbors in need.
We have not brought the homeless into our houses.
We have not fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited the captive.
We have not moved to change the structures that bind and oppress.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
Forgive us our sins and help us to live in your light.
May we turn our festivals into celebrations of your justice;
May we share our soup and bread with open hearts and hands;
May our light break forth and our healing spring up quickly;
All to your Glory, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

Leader:

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
You are forgiven.
May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.