There is hope in the midst of this very difficult situation. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and our Catholic Church partners are working bravely to provide emergency assistance to people affected by the violence, including shelter, food, and household supplies. CRS is also working with interfaith and civil leaders to lead peacebuilding workshops that will culminate in a march for peace on Saturday, May 31 in the Central African Republic.

Loving God,

We ask that your spirit touch the peoples of the Central African Republic.
That brother no longer turns against brother.
Nor sister against sister.
May your children learn to live side by side:
To forgive
To reconcile
To build and not tear down.

Lord, who calls all peacemakers blessed,
Empower all peacemakers inside and outside the Central African Republic:
To stand up for the vulnerable
To harbor the refugee
To aid the afflicted
To comfort the frightened
To work and advocate for justice
To say “No more!” to violence.

Lord, who calls his people to beat their swords into plowshares,
Make us all tillers:
Planting seeds of peace in the Central African Republic
And in all nations
Working faithfully for the glorious harvest
That is your justice.

God of all neighbors
Of all states and every region
Beyond nations, above borders:
Come in your peace
Come in your justice
Come in your hope
Come in your love
Come, and do not delay,
Who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen