



Ser  
misioneros  
en todo lugar

"Anda y haz tñ lo mismo" (Lc. 10. 37)

Fiesta de la Gratitud Mundial 2026  
HIJAS DE MARÍA AUXILIADORA

## Lectio Divina 3

Theme: *Saint Maria Troncatti, artisan of peace*

### Song suggestions:

*Saint Maria Troncatti – Artisan of peace, Susana Díaz*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvqyVZRrQB0>

*Artisans of peace - Nuevo Trigo*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYf2dOMhI64&list=RDPYf2dOMhI64&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYf2dOMhI64&list=RDPYf2dOMhI64&start_radio=1)

*Struggle, struggle for peace*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYf2dOMhI64&list=RDPYf2dOMhI64&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYf2dOMhI64&list=RDPYf2dOMhI64&start_radio=1)

*The Bridge*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4cHfM9PWSI&list=RDA4cHfM9PWSI&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4cHfM9PWSI&list=RDA4cHfM9PWSI&start_radio=1)

### Symbols:

**large open Bible:** Word of God

**lighted Candle:** living presence of God

**Amazon Suspension Bridge:** Connection, unity (make is beforehand following the tutorial and keep it as a symbol)

**Blue Material under the bridge:** Upano River

**Image of Saint Maria Troncatti:** Amazonian missionary holiness

Tutorial for building a model of the bridge over the Upano River, near Macas, in the Ecuadorian Amazon:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc2YATMv4KA&ab\\_channel=DyartorinCrafts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc2YATMv4KA&ab_channel=DyartorinCrafts)

Place signs on the bridge bearing the words: **peace, unity, reconciliation, Jesus Christ, dialogue, building.**

**Keywords:** building, unity, connection, bond, dialogue, mission, Jesus, peace....

Invocation to the Holy Spirit: Spirit of God (*Marco Antonio Espín*).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfTxDwpYtok&list=RDhfTxDwpYtok&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfTxDwpYtok&list=RDhfTxDwpYtok&start_radio=1)

### Lectio (Reading): *What does the text say?*

- **Jn 17: 21:** “so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.”
- **1Cor 3: 10-11:** “According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.”
- **Mt 5: 9:** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

- **Eph 4:3-4:** *“striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace, one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call.”*
- **Rom 12:18:** *“If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.”*

The texts of the New Testament issue an urgent appeal to be builders of unity and peace. Jesus invokes our unity as a distinctive sign of our credibility (Jn 17:21); Paul exhorts us to build everything within the community with Jesus as the sole foundation (1 Cor 3:10).

Blessed are the peacemakers, for God will recognize them as His children (Mt 5:9). We must strive to maintain unity in all aspects (Eph 4:3) and to live in peace, a goal to be placed above all else (Rom 12:18). The building of peace is akin to artisanal work, crafted one piece at a time. Artisanal production is slow and limited; yet, it is unique, a creative expression of the artist, who imprints their own identity upon the work and establishes a bond with it. In every culture, this form of labor serves as an expression of ancestral wisdom. Industrial or mass production, by contrast, is a very different matter. Here, the individual performing the work remains anonymous, and their creation is identical to hundreds or thousands of others.

Living in peace with everyone and serving as a bond of unity within the community is a patient, daily endeavor that requires listening, respect for diversity, and being a sign of God's love.

The Word of God does not stop at ideas. It looks at us, judges us, and sends us forth. Jesus prays for unity; Paul speaks of foundations; the Gospel proclaims the peacemakers blessed. Sister Maria Troncatti read the Gospel from the depths of the forest, from wounded and ailing bodies, from a contested land, and from a Shuar culture that was being exploited and there, she built PEACE.

#### **Pope Leo XIV, 22 June 2025:**

The peace of Christ is a humble, steadfast, and merciful peace, which flows from the unconditional love of God. Peace begins with each one of us in the way we look at others, listen to others, and speak of others, and it leads us to unity among ourselves. Therefore, without fear and united, **let us build bridges** through dialogue and encounter, so that we may be one people, always at peace. Throughout history, we observe that war does not resolve problems. On the contrary, it aggravates them and inflicts deep wounds upon the history of peoples, wounds that take generations to heal. Peace is not the absence of war, but a **demanding and active gift**. It is "the first gift of Christ"... and it must begin in the human heart, through humility. Do you wish to be a builder of peace?

#### **Pope Leo XIV, 01 January 2026, LIX World Day of PEACE:**

“[...] Peace is not merely the absence of conflict. It is accepting our differences in a spirit of reconciliation: listening to, recognizing, accepting, valuing, and appreciating others for who they are. Peace is a perennially stable value, yet it becomes particularly urgent in this current cultural and social climate, one so aggressive and polarized.”

At this moment in history, there is an urgent need for a peace that is **disarmed and disarming**. Saint Augustine advised against burning bridges or dwelling on reproach, preferring instead the path of listening and, insofar as possible, of engaging with the perspectives of others. Francis of Assisi welcomed true peace into the depths of his being. He freed himself from any desire to dominate others, made himself one of the least among us, and sought to live in harmony with all. It is a story that seeks to continue within us, so that we may mutually contribute to a **disarming peace**, a peace that springs from the Gospel.

#### **With Saint Maria Troncatti:**

She was a bridge between cultures, a mediator between mestizo settlers and indigenous peoples, and an architect of a peace founded on Jesus. Only those who are inwardly at peace can become builders of peace.

Sister Maria Troncatti stands, to date, as the central figure of holiness within the Amazonian ecosystem, specifically within the biome of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Her recent canonization has cast a global spotlight upon her missionary legacy. However, she is not the only Saint or Blessed figure associated with the mission in the tropical rainforests and among ancestral cultures. There are numerous Blesseds, Saints, and Martyrs, many with active causes for canonization, including bishops, priests, religious sisters, lay pastoral workers, and indigenous leaders, who have given their lives defending native communities in the

Amazon amidst conflicts over agrarian reform, mining and illegal logging, cattle ranching expansion, environmental protection, and the denunciation of rural violence... (in ECU: P. Luis Bolla sdb; Mons. Alejandro Labaka ofm-cap and Sister Inés Arango ofm. In PER: Edwin Chota; Berti Antaihua; Gemerson Pizango; Nusat Parisada. In BRA: Ezequiel Ramin smc; Sister Dorothy Stang ndn; Fr. Josimo Tavares; Vicente Cañas SJ; João Bosco Burnier SJ; Rodolfo Lunkenbein sdb; Osválinda Alves Pereira; Fr. Alfredo Leite; Fr. Antonio Pereira; Simao Bororo and Adelino Ramos. These are names among many others).

In the territory of the Vicariate of Méndez and Gualaquiza, entrusted to the SDB [Salesians of Don Bosco] several Amazonian cultures were present. The Shuar, the Achuar, and the Wampis have survived. Other cultures have vanished due to conflicts among themselves, epidemics, natural hazards, and food scarcity. The jungle permits the existence of only small groups due to limited resources; when a group grows, the community is compelled to migrate.

Traditionally, the ethnic groups of the Amazon have been warrior peoples, with the Shuar being the most renowned for their fierce pride as the "head-shrinkers" of their enemies (Tzantzas). It was among this Amazonian people, who valued violence as a means of survival that Sister Maria Troncatti was sent to work as a missionary.

From the very beginning of their missionary work alongside the Salesians, they encountered resistance, particularly among the mestizo settlers. The missionaries proclaimed the equality of rights between both peoples, denouncing the abuses committed against the Shuar people. Yet, it was above all the education and organization of the people into the Shuar Federation that fueled the violence of the settlers against the missionaries and the Shuar.

There, Sister Maria Troncatti, acting as a "mediator," positioned herself between the parties unable to reach an agreement, particularly regarding the issues of land ownership and the young Shuar women. She sought to facilitate communication and the resolution of the conflict in a peaceful and constructive manner. She helped build bridges and find mutually acceptable solutions, acting with neutrality.

As a Salesian missionary, she was not merely a consecrated woman, nurse, catechist, surgeon, and counselor; above all, she was a living bridge between the settlers and the Shuar people. Her life was a living Gospel of reconciliation, mediating between opposing factions, healing wounds of both body and soul, and sowing peace where hatred prevailed.

Sister Maria had but one objective: to help people encounter Jesus. Indeed, she thirsted to "give Him souls", that is, to bring people to Him through baptism. While tending to the wounds of the tortured bodies of the Shuar, who were killing one another in the name of the "law of the jungle," or vengeance, she sought every opportunity to speak to them of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the Gospel. With indescribable courage and determination, she acted in defense of indigenous rights whenever the settlers oppressed them.

Nevertheless, she cares for everyone without distinction, helping them to live in a more fraternal manner. With great human and spiritual maturity, she risks her life to assist even those who have slandered her, those who were a source of apostolic disappointments and death threats, and even those who attempted to take her life through poisoning. She engages in dialogue with the settlers' wives and encourages them to sow seeds of kindness, justice, fraternity, and equality among people, knowing that, through the educational influence of women, it is possible to shape future generations toward a more respectful coexistence and an acceptance of diversity. She worked tirelessly to ensure that young Shuar people and young "white" women could coexist peacefully in schools and boarding houses. In the "clinics," pharmacies, and dispensaries where she worked, as well as in the "Pio XII" Hospital in Sucúa, which she founded, there were no distinctions in treatment, unlike in other places. To her, everyone had an equal right to receive care from their "good little mother" and from her community.

Working for peace entails understanding the viewpoints of others, avoiding taking sides, identifying interests and needs, and generating potential solutions. It becomes essential to act with active listening, empathy, patience, and strong communication skills.

Ultimately, in keeping with the mindset of her time, she offered her life for peace between the Shuar and the settlers. According to the testimony of Sister Pierina Rusconi, FMA, "Now," she told me, "I am going to tell you something, but you must not reveal it to anyone until what I am entrusting to you comes to pass:

— *The Mother of Jesus has revealed to me that something tragic is destined to happen to me... to me alone. I will not leave the mission. My body will lie in the shadow of the Immaculate One. No one will touch me.*

— *All of this made a profound impression on me, yet I spoke of the matter to no one. The two races are enemies, the colonists and the Shuar. A victim is needed. I will offer myself to the Lord on their behalf. What do you think?*

— *I do not know, I replied. You should consult your confessor regarding such matters. The following week, she called me and said:*

— *It is finished. The victim has already offered herself, and the Lord has accepted her."*

*The plane crash that claimed the life of Sister Maria Troncatti in 1969 was interpreted by both groups, settlers and Shuar, as a sign of the peace for which she had labored and for which she had offered herself.*

**Meditatio (Meditation):** *What does this text say to me?*

### **Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. Starting from our educational reality, what walls exist today between teachers, students, families, managers (distrust, indifference, authoritarianism, individualism, lack of dialogue)?
2. Jesus says: "that all may be one, so that the world may believe" (Jn 17:21). To what extent is our EC [Educating Community] a credible sign of unity, inclusion, and reconciliation?
3. According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, Christ is the only foundation. What educational practices have been built more upon results, prestige, or control than upon the Gospel?
4. How can we explicitly educate for a culture of dialogue, non-violence, and peace, and not solely for academic success?
5. In light of GC XXIV FMA: How do we live the shared mission in building peace?
6. What concrete gestures does the Spirit ask of us today, so that we may be a Christian Community that builds bridges and does not erect walls?
7. Jesus prays for unity among His disciples. How do we live out fraternal communion in our communities? What tensions need to be healed?
8. Is our communal life truly built upon Jesus Christ, or at times upon customs, securities, or roles?
9. Saint Maria Troncatti was a mediator and a bridge, even at the cost of her life. Are we willing today to occupy uncomfortable spaces to foster peace?
10. How do we navigate conflicts within the Christian Community: starting from listening, evangelical neutrality, and justice, or from purely emotional impulses? Do I feel ready to challenge myself to act as a bridge between people who are not speaking to one another or who refuse to engage?
11. What can I learn for my life from Saint Maria Troncatti, Artisan of Peace, in my daily mission?

## Oratio (Prayer): *What do I say to God?*

Let us pray for peace with the prayer that Saint Francis of Assisi composed 800 years ago, a prayer that Saint Maria Troncatti undoubtedly recited many times, until she molded her heart in its likeness:

**All:**

*Lord,*

**Make me:**

*an instrument of Your peace  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is offense, let me bring forgiveness;  
where there is discord, let me bring unity;  
where there is error, let me bring truth;  
where there is doubt, let me bring faith;  
where there is despair, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, let me bring light.*

**teacher:**

*Grant that I may not seek so much  
to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.*

**Because it is:**

*in giving, that we receive;  
in forgetting oneself, that we find understanding;  
in forgiving, that we are forgiven;  
in dying, that we rise to Eternal Life.*

**Moment of silence** to make one of these phrases resonate in my heart.

Lord Jesus,  
today we come with our hearts just as they are:  
sometimes wounded, sometimes weary,  
filled with fear or indifference.

You dreamed that we would be all one.  
Teach us to love when it takes effort,  
to listen when we would rather answer,  
to forgive when it hurts.

Make us courageous, bold,  
so that we do not raise walls,  
nor remain prisoners within them,  
but build bridges.

May we be peace at home,  
peace at school,  
peace on social media,  
peace where there is conflict.

Like Saint Maria Troncatti,  
we want to stake our lives on reconciliation.  
Count on us, Lord. Amen.

## Contemplatio (Contemplation): *What do I feel in the face of this message?*

Close your eyes... Breathe deeply... You are in the heart of the forest. You hear the river, the birds, the wind. You see a suspension bridge... it looks fragile, but it connects two shores.

Saint Maria Troncatti draws near, looks at you with tenderness, and says to you:

*Peace is not made with force. It is made with love, with patience, with small daily gestures. Do you feel ready to be a bridge, together with me?"*

Listen to what God says to you in your heart. Do not answer with words; just remain there. **Contemplative Silence**

## Actio (Action): *What does this Word call me to?*

1. Write on a post-it a concrete action you will take this week to build peace in your environment (forgiving, mediating, listening, avoiding gossip, engaging in dialogue, taking a step back from your position, sharing without judging, acting selflessly, defending someone, apologizing).
2. **With Saint Maria Troncatti:**  
We build a **bridge of commitments** by gluing our actions—shaped like bricks (cutouts of cardstock or terracotta-colored EVA foam) onto the “**Bridge of Peace**” (the model created at the beginning). As we glue each one in place, we voice our commitment aloud before the assembly.

### Other options for the group:

1. Each group receives a folded strip of paper to cut out figures holding hands (a chain of paper people) as a symbol of reconciliation. On them, we write the phrase, “We are bridges, not walls!” or another similar expression....
2. **Gesture of Peace:** As a sign of fraternity, we exchange an embrace of reconciliation and conscious peace, looking one another in the eye, as we sing:  
Hymn of Peace (Fraternas menard)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrK\\_N-iP1hU&list=PLuz16yyoQcS85xhF1WRiK\\_Oh0aPEu-lbm&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrK_N-iP1hU&list=PLuz16yyoQcS85xhF1WRiK_Oh0aPEu-lbm&index=4)

### Final Community Prayer:

*Lord,  
We come to You with an unquiet heart, like that of Saint Maria Troncatti,  
who found no rest until she saw brothers in conflict reconciled.  
Teach us to build bridges where there are walls,  
to take steps of dialogue where there is silence,  
to heal wounds with Your peace.  
Make us simple, courageous, and faithful, like Your missionary daughter.  
Amen.*

### Suggestions for the final:

#### Artesana de Paz (Artisan of Peace)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVQJ35JDmNQ&list=RDSVQJ35JDmNQ&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVQJ35JDmNQ&list=RDSVQJ35JDmNQ&start_radio=1)

#### Señor, hazme instrumento de tu paz (Lord, make me an instrument of Your Peace.)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVJQtVfrezk&list=RDVVJQtVfrezk&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVJQtVfrezk&list=RDVVJQtVfrezk&start_radio=1)

#### Paz Señor en el cielo y en la tierra (Peace, Lord, in Heaven and Earth)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27Z2s\\_MtNBE&list=RD27Z2s\\_MtNBE&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27Z2s_MtNBE&list=RD27Z2s_MtNBE&start_radio=1)