



Benedictines for Peace

## Summer 2024 Walk for a ceasefire in Gaza

Since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, the residents of the Gaza Strip have borne the brunt of the war in the Holy Land.

- The Gaza Strip is the smaller of the two Palestinian Territories. Bordered by Israel to the East and North, Egypt to the south, and the Mediterranean Sea to the West, **Gaza is only 25 miles long.**

- In 2023, it had a population of 2.1 million people, more than half of whom were age 19 or younger. In the last 10 months, approximately **40,000 people have been killed**, and more than 90,000 have been injured. Over 15,000 children have died.

There is a humanitarian crisis unfolding, with more than 75% of the population displaced, 60% of the housing destroyed, and more than 50% of hospitals no longer functional. With bombardments happening throughout the region, the UN Secretary General says that “Nowhere in Gaza is safe.”

Food is scarce and humanitarian aid convoys have been attacked. Over 50% of households report no food at home, and more than 20% report going entire days without eating.

**We invite you to join us this summer in walking 25 miles—the length of Gaza—while praying for the peoples of this region and for a ceasefire.** This can be done on your own timeline, as part of a team of walkers, outdoors or indoors, before Labor Day.

This is not only an experience of prayerful solidarity with Gazans, but also **an opportunity to raise funds for Mercy Corps**, an organization that has been working in Palestine since 1986. They are one of many organizations working hard to establish supply lines for essential lifesaving items such as clean water, food, hygiene supplies, and shelter materials. Ask your friends and colleagues to sponsor you a \$1 or \$5 per mile, and to donate at [www.mercycorps.org/donate](http://www.mercycorps.org/donate)

Before you walk:

Please register with us so that we know how many people are involved in this effort. This can be done at [www.benedictinesforpeace.com/gospel-action/walkforgaza/](http://www.benedictinesforpeace.com/gospel-action/walkforgaza/)

Consider joining us on August 21, at 5 p.m. at Beach 1 of Presque Isle, for a 5 mile walk for this cause. You might join for just a part of it, or for the whole walk.

Center yourself and remember the intention of this walk. You might pray with the World Peace Prayer:

Lead us from death to life,  
From falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope,  
From fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love,  
From war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
Let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe.

