

# FAITH AND REASON

**Revitalizing the Original Spirit:** I am pleased to participate in this virtual high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and to reiterate the Holy See's support for this prestigious Institution. For the past 75 years, the peoples of the world have turned to the United Nations as a source of hope for world peace and harmony among States. To this Organization they have brought the desire for an end to conflict and strife, greater respect for the dignity of the human person, the alleviation of suffering and poverty and the advancement of justice: an expression of an underlying expectation of the United Nations that this Organization would not only affirm the ideals on which it was founded, but would labor with ever-greater resolve to make these ideals a reality in the life of every woman and man.

The Holy See has supported and taken an active role within the United Nations. Successive Popes have come before this General Assembly urging this noble Institution to be a "moral center" where every country is at home, where the family of nations convenes and where the international community in a spirit of human fraternity and solidarity advances together with multilateral solutions to global challenges. As the COVID-19 pandemic has made abundantly clear, we cannot go on thinking only of ourselves or fostering divisions; rather, we must work together to overcome the world's worst plagues, mindful that the burden carried by some necessarily affects humanity and the whole family of Nations.

Over these 75 years, the UN has protected and served international law, promoting a world based on the rule of law and justice rather than on weapons and might. The UN has brought food to the starving, built homes for those without, has committed itself to the protection of our common home and has advanced a world of integral human development. The UN has strived to champion universal human rights, which also include the right to life and freedom of religion, as they are essential for the much needed promotion of a world where the dignity of every human person is protected and advanced. The Organization has worked to end war and conflict, to repair what violence and strife have destroyed and to bring opposing sides to the table so that, together, diplomacy and negotiation may win the day.

There have been challenges and setbacks, even contradictions and failures. The United Nations is not perfect, and it has not always lived up to its name and ideals, and it has harmed itself whenever particular interests have triumphed over the common good. The United Nations will always be in need of revitalizing the original spirit in order to make the Charter's principles and purposes its own, within the context of a changing world. There is also the need for diplomats here and for the countries they represent to commit themselves ever anew to the daunting task of seeking the common good in good faith through genuine consensus and compromise. The United Nations Organization, where the peoples of the world unite in dialogue and common action, is needed as much today as ever to respond to the undiminished hopes of the peoples of the world... **Cardinal Parolin At The Commemoration Of The 75th Anniversary Of The UN**

**"God has created me to do Him some definite service.** He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about." ... **John Henry Newman**

**Prayer of Hope:** Lord let me take from this place, some fresh understanding of your love. So often I scourge myself with the past, with my guilts, and love all connection with you. I forget your love and care..... I forget how to hope. My past has happened, and it is done. But my future is something I look to, either in fear, anxiety or in hope. So often the things I feared have never been as bad as I feared. Or never happen at all. Even the bad things I have dealt with and not gone under. We pass from one day to the next absorbing the knocks we cannot avoid, and glad we did not know about them yesterday. So, help me not waste mt time in fearing. Help me to live in hope.... Hope that I might know happiness .... Hope that I know peace ... Hope that I might know contentment .... Hope that I might feel better about my life.... Hope that it all be worthwhile .... It is the hopeful people who keep going .... Like Children .... like saints Help me to remember that people I like most, are hopeful about me. And you Lord are the most hope filled of all.

**“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness;** He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.”... **St. John Paul II**

I was a free man in a worldly position; my father was a decurion. Indeed, I bargained away my aristocratic status. I am neither ashamed nor sorry, for the benefit of others. In short, I am a slave in Christ to an outlandish nation because of the unspeakable glory of eternal life which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord... **Patrick of Ireland**

### **A Thought For the Day**

- Sunday** You are currently as close to God as you want to be.  
**Monday** The purest suffering bears and carries in its train the purest understanding.  
**Tuesday** Expect temptation to your last breath.  
**Wednesday** Conversion is a continuous adventure.  
**Thursday** You have to cross the cross to get to Heaven.  
**Friday** Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.  
**Saturday** Your faith is personal, but it is not private.

**Subjectivism:** Subjectivism, is another term for individual relativism, that is, the position that what is morally right and wrong is relative to what an individual thinks or feels. Cultural relativism holds that what is morally right is relative to the group or the culture. The subjectivist says: "If you think it is right, then it is right for you. But if you think something else is right it is right for me". Subjectivism often originates in a confused notion of freedom. Many people think that freedom somehow is in opposition to objective moral norms. People sometimes wish to say that true personal freedom must include the freedom to determine what is right and wrong, the freedom to “create one’s own values” This is a confused notion of freedom. We can freely choose to respond positively or negatively to what is truly good and fulfilling for ourselves and for others, but we cannot bring it about that choosing against our true good or our neighbors, is morally right. Some choices fulfill our capacity to love God, and the true good of our neighbor and self, and other choices diminish that capacity. Such truths are not contrary to freedom; rather, they mean that our freedom has eternal significance.

**A Pope's Prayer:** Lead in truth, O Christ, the fathers and mothers of families in the Church, urged on and strengthened by the sacramental grace of marriage, and aware of being on earth the visible sign of your unfailing love for the Church. Lead in truth, O Christ, the young people of the Church. Let them not be attracted by new idols, such as exaggerated consumerism, prosperity at all costs. moral permissiveness, protest expressed in violence, but rather let them live with the joy of your message, which is the message of the Beatitudes. Lead in truth, O Christ, all the faithful of the Church. May they become before the world courageous witnesses to your mission of salvation, happy to be sons and daughters of God - with you - and all humanity! Lead us in truth, O Christ, Always! Amen **St. John Paul II**

**Faith is the proof of what cannot be seen.** What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told, "You believe because you have seen me". Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man... **Pope St Gregory the Great**

*Love has many voices. Love sends its greeting in the smile of a friend, the contented sighs of a baby, the felty whisperings of the Spirit.*

In His Will is Our Peace  
Fr. William C. Mooney

Spiritual Direction and Confession  
Email: [Fr.WCmooney@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.WCmooney@gmail.com)  
Appointments: (904) 824-6625

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