

# FAITH AND REASON

**Science is a great resource for building peace:** I wish to express my gratitude to the organizers of the meeting “Science for Peace” on the occasion of the Jubilee of Saint Gabriel, whose shrine is located on the slopes of the Gran Sasso, home to the National Laboratories for Nuclear Physics. I greet the academic and scientific authorities, the guests of the national and European institutions, and all the men and women engaged in scientific research. Among these, I would like to recall Professor Antonino Zichichi, President of the World Federation of Scientists - awarded on this occasion with the highest honor of the University of Teramo - who continues to dedicate his life to the development of science and the education of new generations. Dear distinguished scientists, your meeting is a great gift of hope for humanity. Never before has the need for a revival of scientific research been so keenly felt in order to rise to the challenges of contemporary society. And I am happy that it is the diocesan community of Teramo that is promoting this meeting, thus demonstrating that there cannot and must not be any opposition between faith and science. As I recalled in the Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, it is urgent to know reality so as to build together. To nurture and develop the desire for knowledge that is hidden in the heart of every man and woman, scientific research must put its results at the service of all, always seeking new forms of collaboration, sharing results and building networks. Furthermore, I continued in the Encyclical, we must not overlook the “risk that a single scientific advance will be seen as the only possible lens for viewing a particular aspect of life, society and the world”. The experience of the health emergency even more so, and in some ways even more urgently, has prompted the world of science to rethink the prospects for prevention, treatment and health organization, taking into account the anthropological implications linked to sociality and the quality of relations between family members and, above all, between generations.

No scientific knowledge should stand alone and believe it is self-sufficient. Historical reality is increasingly becoming a single reality and needs to be served in the plurality of knowledge, which in its specificity contributes to the growth of a new culture capable of building society by promoting the dignity and development of every man and woman.

In the face of new challenges, you, dear friends of science, are entrusted with the task of bearing witness to the possibility of constructing a new social bond, committing yourselves to making scientific research close to the whole community, from the local to the international one, and showing that together it is possible to overcome every conflict. Science is a great resource for building peace! I ask you to accompany the formation of the new generations, teaching them not to be afraid of the effort of research. The Master also lets Himself be sought: He instils in everyone the certainty that when one seeks honestly, one encounters the truth. The changing age needs new disciples of knowledge, and you, dear scientists, are the teachers of a new generation of peacemakers. I assure you; I am close to you and the whole Church is close to you, with prayer and encouragement.

**Dear Jesus,** You know that we children also have crosses to carry. Crosses that are no lighter or heavier than those of adults, but are still real crosses, crosses that weigh us down even at night. Only you know what they are and take them seriously. Only you. Only you know how hard it is for me to learn not to be afraid of the dark and all alone.

Only you know how hard it is to wake up every morning after wetting the bed.

Only you know how hard it is to think quickly and to learn grammar and math.

Only you know how hard it is to see my parents fight and slam the door and not talk to each other for days.

Only you know how hard it is to be made fun of, and not be invited to parties.

Only you know what it means to be poor and have to do without things my friends have.

Only you know how hard it is to reveal a terrible secret, not knowing who to tell for fear of being betrayed, accused or not believed.

Dear Jesus, you once were a child like me. You used to play and maybe you would fall and hurt yourself. You also went to school and maybe some of your schoolwork was not exactly great. You too had a mom and a dad, and you know that there are times when I don't want to obey them when they tell me to do my homework, to take out the trash, to make my bed and to tidy up my room. You too went to catechism and to prayer and you know that I'm not always perfectly happy to go there

Dear Jesus, you more than anybody else know that there are children in our world who have nothing to eat, who cannot go to school, who are being used and forced to become soldiers. Help us to carry our daily crosses as you carried yours. Help us to become better and better, to become what you want us to be. I thank you, because I know that you are always close to me and that you never abandon me, even when I am most afraid. And thank you too, for sending my guardian angel to light and guard me every day. **Amen**

**Peace and Truth:** Peace convicts us of our lies. It brings us out of our comfortable indifference into the struggle and pain of the truth. And it is only thus that true peace can come into being, in place of the apparent peace, beneath which lie the hidden hypocrisy and all kinds of conflict. Truth is worth pain and even conflict. I may not just accept a lie in order to have quiet. For it is not the first duty of a citizen, or of a Christian, to seek quiet; but rather it is that standing fast by what is noble and great, which is what Christ has given us and which can reach as far as suffering, as far as a struggle that ends in martyrdom - and exactly in that way of peace. Christ embodies the great and undiluted loving-kindness of God. He comes to help us bear the load. He does not do this by simply by taking away from us the pain of being human; that remains heavy enough. But we are no longer carrying it on our own; he is carrying it with us. Christ has nothing to do with comfort, with banality, yet we find in him that inner calm that comes from knowing that we are being supported by an ultimate kindness and an ultimate security. We see that the entire structure of the message of Jesus is full of tension; it is an enormous challenge. Its nature is such that it always has to do with the Cross. Anyone is not ready to get burned, who is not at least willing for it to happen, will not come near. But we can always be sure that it is there that we will meet true loving-kindness, which helps us, which accepts us - and which does not merely mean well toward us, but which will in fact ensure that all things go well with us ..... **Pope Benedict XVI**

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

**Sunday** The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.  
**Monday** The good are in heaven's particular care.  
**Tuesday** When a man is prey to his emotions, he is not his own master.  
**Wednesday** Trust reposed in noble natures obliges them the more.  
**Thursday** When firmness is sufficient, rashness is unnecessary.  
**Friday** A fool always finds a greater fool to admire him.  
**Saturday** If you would be borne with, then bear with others.

**Every Life is a Gift:** Stand up for life for the elderly, the handicapped; stand up against assisted suicide and euthanasia. Stand up for marriage and family life. Stand up for purity. Resist the temptations of the world that too often tries to ignore a basic truth: that every life is a gift from God our Creator and that we must give an account to God of how we use it.... **St John Paul II**

**Stop and reflect:** Before you speak ask yourself three questions: Is it kind, is it true, and is it necessary? Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully. Never miss the opportunity to compliment or say something encouraging to someone. Refuse to speak negatively about others: do not gossip and do not listen to gossip. Have a forgiving view of people. Believe that most people are doing the best they can. Keep an open mind: discuss, but do not argue. It is possible to disagree without being disagreeable. Forget about counting ten; keep on counting before you make matters worse. Let your virtues speak for themselves. If someone criticizes you, consider if there is any truth in what is being said: if so make changes, Cultivate your sense of humor: laughter is the shortest distance between two people. Do not seek so much to be consoled, as to console: do be understood as to understand: to be loved as to love for it is in giving of ourselves that we become ourselves.

**Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima:** Pray for our dear country, sanctify the clergy, make our Catholics more fervent, direct those who govern us, cure the sick who confide in you, console the sorrowful who trust in you, help all those who invoke your aid, deliver us from all dangers., help us to resist temptation, obtain for us all we lovingly ask of you, help those who are dear to us, bring back to the right road our erring brothers, give us back our ancient fervor, obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and offences, obtain peace for the world, bring all people to the feet of your Divine Son.

**Christ Knows Our Needs:** I am moved with pity for the multitude: His compassion, because it was human, was spontaneous; because it was Divine, was on a grand scale. We find our hearts go out in compassion toward this or that victim of poverty or distress, when a whole crowd of people is affected, our sympathy our instinctive sympathy grows fainter, just where it should have been redoubled; if a whole sub-continent is ravaged by pestilence or famine, we put our hands in our pockets, but we are too unimaginative to feel the tragedy. With Our Lord, it is not so; He has been dealing with them one by one, the blind, the dumb, the lame, the palsied, the possessed; He is as conscious as ever of their common need. He has pity on the multitude..... **Msgr Ronald Knox**

**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  
Follow on Facebook: [Faith and Reason](#)  
Instagram: [faith\\_and\\_reason](#)