

FAITH AND REASON

Humanity needs peace: After praying the Angelus in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Francis renewed his appeal "to the heads of nations and international organizations to react to the tendency to accentuate conflict and confrontation. The world needs peace", he said, but "not a peace based on the balance of weapons, on mutual fear". Earlier, the Pope had reflected on the Gospel reading of Luke about the importance of working together to live out the Gospel message. The following is a translation of the Holy Father's words.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Buongiorno! In the Gospel of this Sunday's liturgy, we read that "the Lord appointed seventy-two [disciples], and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come". The disciples were sent two by two, not individually. To go on a mission two by two, from a practical point of view, would seem to bring more disadvantages than advantages. There is the risk that the two would not get along, that they would go at different paces, that one would get tired or sick along the way, forcing the other to stop. When one is alone, on the other hand, it seems the journey would become swifter and smoother. However, Jesus does not think like this: he does not send people out alone before him, but disciples who go two by two. Let us ask ourselves a question: what is the reason for this choice of the Lord? It was the disciples' task to go ahead into the villages to prepare the people to receive Jesus; and the instructions he gives them are not so much about what they should say, but how they should be: that is, not on the "phrasebook" of what they should say, no; on the witness of life, the witness to give rather than the words to say. Indeed, he defines them as workers: in other words, they are called to work, to evangelize through their behavior. And the first practical action with which the disciples carry out their mission is precisely that of going two by two. The disciples are not "free agents", preachers who do not know how to yield the word to another. It is primarily the very life of the disciples that announces the Gospel: their knowing how to be together, their mutual respect, their not wanting to prove that they are more capable than the other, their concordant reference to the one Master.

Perfect pastoral plans can be drawn up, and well-designed projects implemented, organized down to the last detail; one can summon crowds and have many means; but if there is no openness to fraternity, the evangelical mission cannot advance. Once, a missionary recounted how he left for Africa with a confrère. However, after some time he separated from him, stopping in a village where he successfully implemented a series of building projects for the good of the community. Everything was working well. But one day he had a jolt: he realized that his life was that of a good entrepreneur, always in the midst of building sites and paperwork! But... and that "but" remained there. So, he left the management to others, to the laypeople, and joined his confrère. He thus understood why the Lord had sent the disciples "two by two": the evangelizing mission is not based on personal activism, that is, on "doing", but on the witness of brotherly love, even amid the difficulties that living together entails. So, we might wonder: how do we take the good news of the Gospel to others? Do we do so with a fraternal spirit and style, or in the manner of the world, with self-promotion, competitiveness and efficiency? Let us ask ourselves whether we have the capacity to collaborate; whether we know how to make decisions together, sincerely respecting those who are alongside us and taking into account their point of view; whether we do so in community, not by ourselves. Indeed, it is above all in this way that the life of the disciple allows that of the Master to shine through, truly announcing it to others. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, teach us to prepare the way for the Lord with the witness of fraternity.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father...**Philippians 2:5-11**

Prayer of Abandonment: Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures – I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen...

Charles de Foucauld

Authentic Peace: A Free act of Love. Real peace is not just a matter of structures and mechanisms. It rests above all, on the adoption of a style of human life marked by human acceptance and a capacity to forgive from the heart. We all need to be forgiven by others, so we must all be ready to forgive. Asking and granting forgiveness is something profoundly worthy of every one of us; sometimes it is the only way out of a situation marked by age-old and violent hatred. Forgiveness, in its truest and highest form, is a free act of love; but precisely because it is an act of love, it has its own intrinsic demands, the first of which is respect for the truth.

What does Jesus Christ do in the Eucharist? It is God who, as our Savior, offers himself each day for us to his Father's justice. If you are in difficulties and sorrows, he will comfort and relieve you. If you are sick, he will either cure you or give you strength to suffer so as to merit Heaven. If the devil, the world, and the flesh are making war upon you, he will give you the weapons with which to fight, to resist, and to win victory. If you are poor, he will enrich you with all sorts of riches for time and eternity. Let us open the door of his sacred and adorable Heart and be wrapped about for an instant by the flames of his love, and we shall see what a God who loves us can do. O my God, who shall be able to comprehend? **St. John Vianney**

A Thought For the Day

Sunday Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason.

Monday The people of God want pastors, not clergy acting like bureaucrats or government officials.

Tuesday The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord's mercy motivates us to do better.

Wednesday He was Firmed by name and grace made him Firmer.

Thursday When we have been to Holy Communion, the balm of love envelops the soul as the flower envelops the bee.

Friday Those whom I receive the greatest consolation and encouragement are those whom I know to be dwelling in paradise.

Saturday Sanctity does not consist in being odd, but it does consist in being rare.

Is it alright for me to rest? I finished not but did my best. The work undone fills me with shame and makes me fear I'll be to blame. How much I long to close my eyes and hear my Mother's lullabies. Am I worthy of her song, if from my fault goes something wrong? I do believe her merciful and understanding of my soul. Is truth thus found in charity, or must I trust anxiety? I toss and turn to put to rest the thought, "You never did your best," while recollections I regret give still more cause for me to fret. Myself I seek to justify, recounting all my reasons "why." But no amount of facts can take away my doubts now wide awake. And so I pray to her and wait 'til worry has stayed up too late and sleeps without an argument, as I rest in abandonment... **Fr. Timothy J. Draper**

The Heart of God: The Old Testament speaks of God's heart twenty-six times. It is regarded as the organ of his will, against which man is measured. It is the Logos which is at the center of us all - without our knowing - for the center of man is the heart, and in the heart there is the guiding energy of the whole, which is the Logos. It is the Logos which enables us to be logical, to correspond to the Logos; he is the image of God after which we were created... It is here, in the heart, that the birth of the divine logos in man takes place, that man is united with the personal, incarnate Word of God... The heart is the place of the saving encounter with the Logos. The pierced heart of Jesus is not concerned with self-preservation with self-surrender. It saves the world by opening itself.... The heart saves, indeed, but it saves by giving itself away. Thus, in the heart of Jesus, the center of Christianity is set before us. It expresses everything, all that is genuinely new and revolutionary in the New Covenant. The heart calls to our heart. It invites us to step forth out of the futile attempt of self-preservation and, by journey in the test of love, handing ourselves over to him, and with him to discover the fullness of love which alone is eternity, and which alone sustains the world. **Pope Benedict XVI**

In His Will is Our Peace

Fr. William C. Mooney

Spiritual Direction and Confession

Email: Fr.WCmooney@gmail.com

Appointments: (904) 824-6625

Follow on Facebook: [Faith and Reason](#)

Instagram: [faith_and_reason](#)