

To All of you who seek for peace:

Peace!

For the World Day of Peace on the 1st of January 2014, Pope Francis chose the following theme : "Fraternity: the foundation and pathway for peace". Meditating on this message could nourish our prayer for peace on this first month of the new year.

The origine of this remark from the pope is the idea that in each and every one of us, there is a "irrepressible longing for fraternity, that which draws us to fellowship with others and enables us to see them not as enemies or rivals, but as brothers and sisters to be accepted and embraced". This vocation, however, is denied by a "globalization of indifference, which makes us slowly inured to the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves", in a world lacking the reference to a COMMON Father, ultimate ground for the fraternity between men (n°1). If Caïn symbolizes the refusal to the responsibility towards our brothers (n°2), the Christ, surrendering to death for the love of his Father, reconciles in him all men (n°3). Peace is understood as a mouvement of solidarity towards all, especially the poorest, loved "as a living image of God the Father, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and placed under the permanent action of the Holy Spirit" (N°4). Fraternity thus presents itself as a path to vanquish poverty, either "by the rediscovery and valuing of *fraternal* relationships in the heart of families and communities", or by effective policies "to promote the principle of *fraternity*, securing for people – who are equal in dignity and in fundamental rights", or by "sober and essential lifestyle" (n°5). The serious financial and economical crisis can also be an opportunity to get back to a more fraternal economical model (n°6). Similarly, fraternity seems an alternate solution to solve human problems, rediscovering the possibility to consider as a brother him who we consider now as an enemy to be destroyed : this requires a resolute effort " the non-proliferation of arms and for disarmament of all parties, beginning with nuclear and chemical weapons disarmament", along with a conversion of the hearts (n°7). An authentic spirit of fraternity can counter the multiple forms of corruption such as illicit traffic of money, drugs, persons and human organs, etc. (n°8). Finally, an ethic of fraternity also concerns nature, using wisely the resources to the benefit of everyone, in order to deliver humanity from hunger (n°9). "The necessary realism proper to politics and economy cannot be reduced to mere technical know-how bereft of ideals and unconcerned with the transcendent dimension of man" : it is only in opening ourselves to Him who loves every man and every woman, that politics and economy can be an efficient tool for a total human development and for peace (n°10).

In ordre to permit these words of Pope Francis to be heard by everyone, let us pray as follows, using these words :

*O Lord of Peace*, "Christ has come to the world so as to bring us divine grace, that is, the possibility of sharing in his life.. (...) This is the good news that demands from each one a step forward, a perennial exercise of empathy, of listening to the suffering and the hopes of others, even those furthest away from me, and walking the demanding path of that love which knows how to give and spend itself freely for the good of all our brothers and sisters. (...) May Mary, the Mother of Jesus, help us to understand and live every day the fraternity that springs up from the heart of her Son, so as to bring peace to each person on this our beloved earth.." *Amen*.

All good wishes for a blessed new year !

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