



28th Sunday Ordinary Time – 15 October 2023

SYNOD ASSEMBLY PRAYS FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST



The 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod dedicated Thursday morning's prayer to asking God for peace for our world. The day's opening prayer was introduced by Iraqi Cardinal Louis Raphaël Sako, Patriarch of Chaldean Catholic Church, who prayed for all those suffering from war across the world, and living in fear. "I would like to invite you this morning to pray for peace in the world, especially in the Holy Land, but also in Ukraine, the violence in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon," Cardinal Sako said. "The people are waiting, with much hope," he continued, "to live in dignity and in fraternity, and not always in fear and concern." The Cardinal called for prayer, fraternity, and solidarity with all those who suffer. 'Let humanity form one family without violence' The Assembly recited several prayers, including Psalm 129, "Out of the depths, I cry to you O Lord; Lord hear my voice."

During the morning prayer, Cardinal Sako also prayed: "Oh God, who cares for all, let the whole of humanity who have one origin from you, form one family, without violence, without absurd wars and with brotherly spirit, live united in peace and concord for our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son who is God, lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever," he prayed. Also during the Synod's morning prayer, the President of the Focolare Movement, Margaret Karram, a Palestinian Catholic, invited prayers for peace. "Lord, we pray to you for the Holy Land, for the people of Israel and Palestine who are under the grip of unprecedented violence, for the victims, especially the children, for the wounded, for those held hostage, for the missing and their families," she said. "In these hours of anguish and suspension, we join our voices to that of the Pope and to the choral prayer of those around the world who implore peace." Ms. Karram also recalled the other countries of the Middle East and all countries at war living in terror and destruction. "Help us, Lord, to commit ourselves to building a fraternal world so that these peoples and those in the same conditions of conflict of instability and violence may find the path of respect for human rights where justice, dialogue and reconciliation are the indispensable tools for building peace," she prayed.

In these days, and in the past, the Holy Father has made countless prayers for peace in nations suffering from war, including an appeal for the Holy Land during his Wednesday General Audience, and for countries struck by violence in the Middle East.

He has also made countless appeals for peace in Ukraine since the war began since Russia's invasion more than a year and a half ago. The Holy Father had personally made a visit to Iraq, 5-8 March 2021, marking the first visit to a Pope to the Middle Eastern nation.

Courtesy Deborah Castellano Lubov - Vatican News

CSPS

On this coming Thursday 19 October at 7pm, Garry Keogh of the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service, will meet with all who are directly involved in our three parishes to update us on polices and services available. It is important that as many as possible attend this meeting in Meath Street Church.



Pope Appoints Women to key Posts

Sr. Patricia Murray, IBVM, USIG Executive Secretary, appointed by Pope Francis as a member of the Commission for the Synthesis Report on the Synod Assembly in Rome. Pope Francis has appointed a religious sister to serve as the number two official at the Holy See office, which oversees religious orders. Sister Simona Brambilla, 58, is from Monza in northern Italy and is a member of the female branch of the Consolata Missionaries. She led the order for twelve years until May 23.



Francis Appeals for Peace

Speaking at the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis expressed his "sorrow and concern" for the war that has broken out between Israel and Hamas. In his appeal, Pope Francis acknowledged that "it is the right of those who are attacked to defend themselves". However, he expressed concern for the "total siege facing the Palestinians in Gaza, where there have also been many innocent victims. "The Middle East does not need war but peace, a peace built on justice, dialogue, & the courage of fraternity."

28TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord,
let us remember God's immense goodness to us.

In your mercy you call us to hope. Lord have mercy

From your goodness, you heal us and make us whole.
Christ have mercy

By your love you defeat death and destruction,
bringing us new life. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has conquered
death and destruction, have mercy on us, forgive us
our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all
peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this
mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all
peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will
destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears
from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day,
it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for
salvation; The Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the
hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I
have been through my initiation and now I am ready for
anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach,
poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same,
it was good of you to share with me in my hardships.
In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ
Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our
Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who
did accept him he gave power to become children of
God. Alleluia!

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the
people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his
servants to call those who had been invited, but they
would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell
those who have been invited" he said "that I have my
banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have
been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the
wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to
his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his
servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was
furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those
murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his

servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were
invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in
the town and invite everyone you can find to the
wedding". So these servants went out on to the roads and
collected together everyone they could find, bad and
good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.
When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed
one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and
said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without
a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the
king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and
throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping
and grinding of teeth". For many are called, but few are
chosen.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you are the God of
compassion, of love and of hope. We praise you and
thank you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, when the storms of life threaten to
overcome us, give us the courage and strength to trust in
your loving presence with us. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit, gather us together as One people, ready to
offer our support and love to all in need. Lord hear us

Give us courage Lord, to work for an end to violence of
all kinds; to seek justice and fairness for all. Lord hear us

We remember with joy, those who have died. We pray
especially for those who have died through violence and
war and in particular all who have died in the Middle
East. Lord hear us

In silence we call to mind all who need our prayer and
support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

When everything's darkness And you feel so alone,
When the rain doesn't stop And you can't make it home,
When it feels all is lost And you just want to run,
It can't rain forever. Just wait for the sun.
When family is pain, When friends can't be found,
When you just want to scream But you can't find the
sound,
When it's all your fault, And you feel like you're done,
Just wait for the sun. The sunshine will come.
The storm always passes. It won't last forever.
The rain always stops and gives way to good weather.
The brightest and warmest of days still to come.
Please wait for the sun. The sunshine will come.
People who need you, People who still love you
Can warm up your soul like the sunshine above you.
You're never alone, No matter what's done.
Wait for the sun. Just wait for the sun.
Dark clouds always pass. I promise you
We're all waiting with you. Just wait for the sun.

Anonymous