

Kindness

and truth shall meet;

justice and peace shall kiss.

Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

Psalm 85:11-12



August 9, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FREE TO CHOOSE

Our readings today drench us in God's kindness. The Old Testament reading, Paul's letter, and the Gospel demonstrate God's creative and personalized outreach to us. In each case, we see a different reaction to God's gestures. Elijah drinks in his consolation, recognizing God in gentle silence and going out to meet God. The Israelites, according to Saint Paul, though encountering God in a variety of ways through the centuries, ultimately reject the Messiah whom God sends to them. Peter thinks he recognizes the Lord coming to him on the water, but demands proof and grows frightened. At all times and in all places, God longs for us to believe and goes to great lengths to strengthen our faith. Ultimately, God never compels belief, but leaves us free to choose. Today's scriptures challenge us to consider our own response to God's constant work in our lives.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

Today's readings console and challenge us, reminding us just how hard God works for us so we might have faith. God's labors are infinitely diverse, too, always tailored to fit our particular situations, personalities, and needs. In Elijah's case, he is hiding in a cave on the very same mountain where Moses once encountered God in the burning bush. Hunted by the pagan Queen Jezebel, Elijah is running for his life. While Moses experienced God in fire on this mountain, Elijah requires a gentler touch. God comes to him not in awesome displays of power, but in a "tiny whispering sound." God provides exactly the tranquility Elijah needs before sending him off on a new mission.

God's creative care for us does not always lead to faith, however. In a strikingly tender passage, Saint Paul shares his heartbreak that God's chosen people could reject Jesus, even after all God has done to prepare them for the Messiah. God has accompanied the chosen people through adoption, miracles, covenants, commandments, prophets, and kings. Despite ages of dedicated and inventive caregiving, God's people do not unite in worship of the true Messiah. The proper response to this lack of faith is sorrow, and Saint Paul pours out the "constant anguish" in his heart.

In yet another astonishingly creative gesture, God visits people in need of faith by defying the laws of nature. Matthew's Gospel describes Jesus actually walking on water to comfort his disciples during a storm at sea. After their terror subsides and the winds grow calm, faith floods the disciples' hearts. They worship Jesus, proclaiming, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

TO THE LIMIT

Sometimes God's creative overtures are almost too much to handle. In a daring effort to trust, Peter challenges Jesus to share miraculous power with him. Jesus obliges, and Peter walks on water. Peter enjoys his miracle until his natural limitations spoil his faith. Just imagine what barriers we can shatter if only we believe.

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Psalm 85:9-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

La misericordia

y la fidelidad se encuentran,
la justicia y la paz se besan;
la fidelidad brota de la tierra
y la justicia mira desde el cielo.

Salmo 85 (84):11-12



9 de agosto de 2020
Decimonoveno Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

LIBRE PARA ELEGIR

Nuestras lecturas de hoy nos empapa en la bondad de Dios. La lectura del Antiguo Testamento, la carta de Pablo y el Evangelio nos demuestran el alcance creativo y personalizado de Dios a nosotros. En cada caso, vemos una reacción diferente a los gestos de Dios. Elías bebe en su consuelo, reconociendo a Dios en silencio suave y saliendo a encontrarse con Dios. Los israelitas, según san Pablo, aunque se encuentran con Dios de diversas maneras a través de los siglos, en última instancia rechazan al Mesías que Dios les envía. Pedro cree que reconoce que el Señor viene a él sobre el agua, pero exige pruebas y se asusta. En todo momento y en todos los lugares, Dios anhela que creemos y hace todo lo posible para fortalecer nuestra fe. En última instancia, Dios nunca obliga a la creencia, sino que nos deja libres para elegir. Las Escrituras de hoy nos desafían a considerar nuestra propia respuesta a la obra constante de Dios en nuestra vida.

ACEPTANDO LA DIVERSIDAD

Las lecturas de hoy nos consuelan y nos desafían, solo recordándonos lo duro que Dios trabaja para nosotros para que podamos tener fe. Los trabajos de Dios son diversamente infinitos también, siempre para medirlos y acomodarlos a nuestras situaciones particulares, personalidades y necesidades. En el caso de Elías, él está escondido en una cueva en la misma montaña donde Moisés una vez encontró a Dios en la zarza ardiente. Siendo perseguido por la reina pagana Jezabel, Elías escapa por su vida. Mientras Moisés experimenta a Dios en el fuego en esta montaña, Elías requiere un toque más gentil. Dios viene a él no en una muestra extraordinaria de poder sino en el “sonido de la brisa suave”. Dios provee exactamente la tranquilidad que Elías necesita antes de enviarlo a una nueva misión.

Sin embargo, el cuidado creador de Dios no siempre nos guía a la fe. En un pasaje sorprendente, san Pablo nos comparte su angustia que el pueblo elegido por Dios puede rechazar a Jesús, aún después de todo lo que Dios ha hecho para prepararlos por el Mesías. Dios ha acompañado al pueblo elegido por medio de la adopción, los milagros, la alianza, los mandamientos, los profetas y reyes. Pese a los años de dedicado e ingenioso cuidado, el pueblo de Dios no se une al culto del verdadero Mesías. La propia respuesta a esta falta de fe es el dolor, y san Pablo derrama la “constante angustia” de su corazón.

En otro asombroso gesto, Dios visita a su pueblo que necesita fe desafiando las leyes de la naturaleza. El Evangelio de Mateo describe a Jesús caminando sobre el agua para consolar a sus discípulos durante una tormenta en el mar. Después de que pasa su espanto y el viento se calma, la fe inunda a los corazones de los discípulos. Ellos alaban a Jesús, proclamando “verdaderamente, tú eres el Hijo de Dios”.

HASTA EL LÍMITE

Algunas veces las propuestas creativas de Dios son demasiado para sobrellevar. En un atrevido esfuerzo, Pedro desafía a Jesús a compartirle su poder con él. Jesús obliga a Pedro a caminar sobre el agua. Pedro disfruta este milagro hasta que sus limitaciones naturales estropean su fe. Solo imagina que barreras podemos romper si solamente creyéramos.

LECTURAS DE HOY

1 Reyes 19:9a, 11-13a
Salmo 85 (84):9-14
Romanos 9:1-5
Mateo 14:22-33

Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 8-02-2020:

Envelopes/checks:	\$ 11,848.00
Plate:	410.00
Online Giving 8-02-2020:	\$ 8,448.77
Total for 8-02-2020:	\$ 20,706.77
JPII Debt Envelopes/checks:	\$ 3,019.00
JPII Debt online:	\$ 2,048.00
Total JPII 8-02-2020:	\$ 5,067.00
Total Misc. Income:	\$ 590.00

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry

JPII

Parish Debt Elimination Campaign

July payment: \$15,000.00

Balance on Debt: \$199,228.72



The Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master,
 Grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*


Amen




**Diocesan Development Fund
 Campaign Progress**

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00
Pledges Made: \$128,438.00
Gifts Received: \$93,486.20
Donors: 428
Percent of Goal: 93.51 %
As of: Aug 01, 2020 6:04PM

Catholic Spirituality	Mass Schedule & Intentions
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	<p><u>Susan Vogt</u>—Author, Speaker, Coach Helping couples & families foster their deepest beliefs.</p>
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Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers	
	<p>55 years ago on Aug. 6 & 9, the USA bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It destroyed many lives. In any marriage there are times when we hurt each other, sometimes seriously. In your own marriage how do you heal? How do you forgive? It's not always easy because love is not easy.</p>

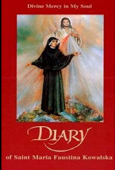
Heaven on Earth ... Friday's from 7 pm to 8 pm



Sign Up for
Adoration

During the COVID - 19 pandemic

Saturday, August 1	
7:30 AM	Heart of Mary Ministry Christine Patterson
4:00 PM	†Ann Prather †Mario & Geri Iglese
Sunday, August 2	
7:30 AM	
9:00 AM	†Carmelita Fontanilla
11:00 AM	People of the Parish
1:00 PM	Enrique Ibarra
5:00 PM	†Glenda Macaluso
Monday, August 3	
7:30 AM	†Rodolfo Grazziani †All Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, August 4	
7:30 AM	†Ciccio Cario
Wednesday, August 5	
7:30 AM	†Alberto Fierros Garcia
Thursday, August 6	
7:30 AM	†Jeanie Woolf †Bill & Phyllis Pulver †Martha A. Mc Kinney
Friday, August 7	
7:30 AM	†Mary Breiner
Saturday, August 8	
4:00 PM	†C. William & Verna Le Grand Maria & John Castro - Anniversary
Sunday, August 9	
7:30 AM	
9:00 AM	†Sebastian & Rosario Konarski Baby Jose Vigano Konarski †Isabel Santos
11:00 AM	†Jeanie Woolf Joseph P. Gallo Alejandra Zarate
1:00 PM	People of the Parish
5:00 PM	†Kristanto S.A

	<p style="text-align: center;">Divine Mercy in My Soul from the Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska</p>
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Tagalog

Romans 9:1-3

He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice... *Diary* 1146

[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. *Diary* 1146

Sa ngalan ni Cristo, ako'y nagsasabi ng totoo. Hindi ako nagsisisinungaling. Ang aking budhi ay nagpapatunay na totoo ang sinasabi ko at saksi ko ang Espiritu Santo. Matindi ang aking kalungkutan at di mapawi ang pagdaramdam ng aking puso, dahil sa mga kalahi kong Judio. Mas mamatamin ko pang ako'y sumpain at mapahiwalay kay Cristo, kung ito'y sa ikabubuti nila.

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

Please visit my blog www.priestmbp.com
 To stay connected with you, the People of God.
 May God help you to find whichever is lost in your life.
 I just found some words and sentences instead of that missing back pack.

THE PRIEST OF THE MISSING BACK PACK

"I DID NOT FIND MY BACK PACK, BUT I FOUND MANY REASONS TO WRITE ABOUT THE LORD..."



St. Vincent de Paul's Corner

National SVDP has asked that our helpline be closed
 For the safety of everyone
 due to the pandemic

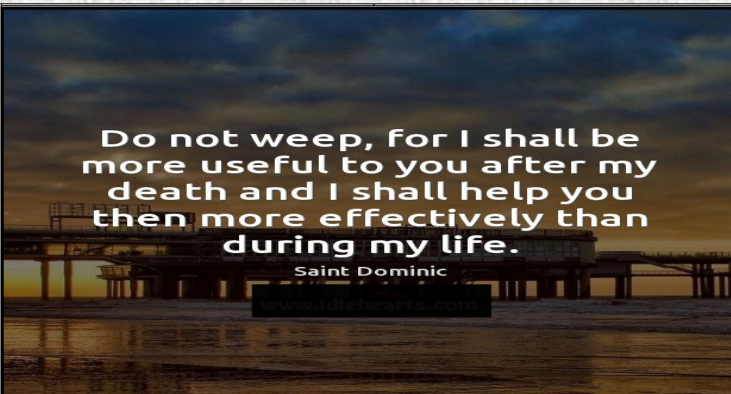
For immediate assistance, dial 211 or
 Catholic Charities (909) 880-3625
 Questions about SVDP? Contact:

Scott, sandnsky8@gmail.com or Fred, Firetruckfreddy@earthlink.net

Food donations for those in need in our community can be placed at any time in the container in front of the office. A portion will be distributed to the food pantry at His Hands at St. Joseph's church in Upland. Questions about food donations? Sherry B. Busiabaer@outlook.com

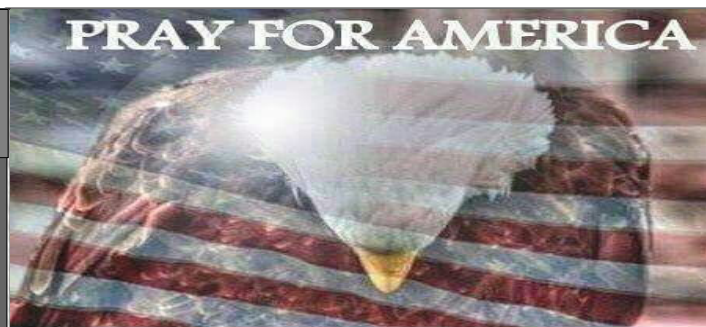
"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46



Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life.

Saint Dominic



Dear God
 I bow my head
 and ask,
 if it be thy will,
 please save this land
 from those who seek
 to destroy it.



The Military Ministry at St Peter St Paul is currently seeking parishioners with family members serving in the military.



Military Ministry Request

The Military Ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul is seeking anyone interested in being part of our team, which will be made up of parishioners who have family members actively serving in the military. As well as, those who have a love for our military and are dedicated to keeping those who have served in our prayers. Activities of this ministry will consist of mailing care packages to military family members of our parishioners, support for families that have a loved one serving in active duty, coordinating with past and present military families for parish events, organizing special Masses and events for the Military holidays and celebrations. you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact: Jonathan & Lynde Peralta (Jonathan @ 951-285-0270, Lynde @909-938-3243)

Military Prayer List Please pray for those serving our country

(PFC) Jacob Beaty
 (AMN) Jacob Beckham
 (MC) Hadji Cabangcalan
 (MSG) Carlos Carrasco
 (LTC) Jeffrey Combalecer
 (PFC) Candace Cordero
 (SGT) Christian Cortez
 (SGT) Kurt Rehnburg
 (SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran
 (E3) Alexander Jimenez
 (PFC) Jacob Rivas

(PFC) Christian Lopez
 (SSG) Kamrin Pavlos
 (PO) Matthew Peralta
 (MSG) Victor Sanez
 (SSG) Jordan Stone
 (Specialist) Nathan Taylor
 (Sgt) Riley Villapando
 (SR) Nicole Woodall
 (USMC) Joseph Luzzini
 Daniel Duarte III

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ■ WHERE FAITH MEETS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

JULY CALENDAR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY—WEDNESDAY | 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
6-10: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED



Do you need a Gift Card for a Birthday, Anniversary, Clothing, Gas, Food or Everyday items?

We sell Scrip gift cards for many retailers like Target, Arco, Walmart, Panera Bread, Arco, Starbuck's, etc. Stop by our school office from 8:30-9:30 am Mondays. The gift card rebates (% varies per gift card purchase) support our school. **Not a school family? No problem!** You may still buy gift cards to help our general fund or support a school family with their Tuition Support Obligation. See the Office for details.



ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Burt—Principal
 Joann Losciale—Preschool Director
 Laura Onopa—Business Manager
 Maria Trujillo—Administrative Assistant

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! #SPSPSAINTS

Thank You for Supporting our 31st Saints Gala Online Auction

All proceeds will directly benefit our academic & athletic programs.

♥ In Smaller Classes Students...
 Are Part of a Close-Knit Community ♦ Process More & Participate Frequently ♦ Speak Up & Are Higher Achievers
 Have More One-to-One Time w/Teachers ♦ Are More Likely to Excel in H.S. & Beyond ♦ Help Your Child Succeed in Life.

ENROLL NOW!



† FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! †

**Now Enrolling for SY 2020-21
 Preschool - 8th Grade**



"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE" - POPE FRANCIS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Smaller Class Sizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Classes = 12 • Average Grade School Classes = 16:1 | <p>Co-curricular Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computers, Music, Art, Spanish, and Sparks® Physical Education School Library & RC Book Mobile | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCEA/WASC Accredited • Diocesan & CA Common Core Standards • Credentialed Teachers • Weekly School Mass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated Reader & Math • ICSSL Sports Program • Before & after school 7 a.m.—6 p.m. • Catered hot lunch program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovated classrooms • New S.T.E.A.M. Lab • 100 Mile Club® • AHA Kids Heart Challenge • Community Service and Outreach |
|---|--|--|---|--|



9135 BANYAN STREET ALTA LOMA, CA 91737 **WWW.STPETERSTPAULSCHOOL.COM** **TEL: (909) 987-7908**
SUMMER HOURS: MON-WED | 8:30 AM-1:30 PM **FAX: (909) 987-6779**

August

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Sign up now for all ministries!
Forms available online at stpeterstpaul.com

Ministries offered by the Youth Office:

Youth Groups:

EDGE

Middle School

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community.

LIFE TEEN

High School

Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

For more information please contact Maggie

Catechism:

Sacramental Prep.

Sacramental Preparation is available for all high school and middle school teens who are seeking to receive their First Communion.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open for all teens ready to take a step forward in their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your teen must be 14 at the time of enrollment.

For more information please contact Daniel

Young Adults:

RENEWED

Renewed is a young adult group for anyone in their early stage of adulthood.

For more information please contact Maggie

Staff/Hours

Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301
Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300
Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

(909) 987-9312

Office Hours:

Mon & Tues: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Wed & Thurs: Through phone only, use ext. 301 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fri-Sun: CLOSED



Ministry ZOOM Meeting Contacts

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers

Saturday @ 7:30-9:00 am

Contact: Chuck Denise. cfdinise@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm

Contact: Jenny Campbell. jcampbell@stpeterstpaul.com

Boy Scout Troop

Monday @ 6:55 pm

Contact: Marc Cobb. Marccobb@verizon.net

*Note: Knights of Columbus meetings are for members only Contact Marc Cobb

Catholic Daughters- Our Lady of Fatima Court #1387

3rd Monday @ 7 pm with rosary at 6:30 pm

Contact: Yvette Weilacker. yweilacker@gmail.com

Hispanic Community

Daily rosary in Spanish

Friday June 5 at 7pm

Contact: Mercedes Aschenbrenner. mercedesasch@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Member Meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Scott Schwartz. sandnsky8@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday @ 10:30-12:00

Contact: Mary Jo Kunkel. mjkunke155@gmail.com

ACTS

Women - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Men - 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Tiffany Wulkopf. tiffanywulkopf@gmail.com or 909-565-3348

Virtual pre-baptism classes

Once a month beginning June

Contact: Aileen Gamalinda for more information. agamalinda@stpeterstpaul.com

**REV. HENRY SSERIISO
PASTOR**

**REV. JUAN SANDOVAL
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**DEACON
JOHN BARNA**

**DEACON
ROBERT BEIDLE**

Our Pastoral Clergy / Staff 987-9312

Fr. Henry Sseriiso Ext. 223
hsseriiso@stpeterstpaul.com

Fr. Juan Sandoval Ext. 304
jsandoval@stpeterstpaul.com

Deacon John Barna
john.w.barna1969@gmail.com
Deacon Bob Beidle
bob.beidle@gmail.com

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church
9135 Banyan Street, Alta Loma, Ca 91737
909-987-9312 FAX 909-980-9404

Faith Formation for Children (Grades 1-5)
Baptism (909) 980-9423

School (Preschool - Grade 8)
(909) 987-7908

During hours the office is closed, call
[909-477-3362](tel:909-477-3362) for Emergencies.

<http://www.stpeterstpaul.com>
<https://app.flocknote.com/spspaltaloma>
www.facebook.com/spspaltaloma

Regular Parish Office Hours (909) 987-9312

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday Closed

Children's Faith Formation & Baptism (909) 980-9423

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Or by appointment
CLOSED Fridays

Youth Ministry

Sun: Closed/Mon: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm/ Tues. 1:30 pm 4:30 pm /
Wed: Closed / Thurs: 1:30 pm -
4:30 pm/ Fri: By Appointment / Sat: Closed

Our Parish Office Staff 987-9312

Business Manager	Karen Hein	Ext. 230
IT (Support Specialist)	Jason Cary	
	jcary@stpeterstpaul.com	
Liturgy Administrative Assistant	Carolina Menendez	Ext. 303
Life Teen Music Coordinator	Melissa Acosta	Ext. 227
Matrimonial Sacraments	Aileen Gamalinda	Ext. 231
Music Director	Audrey Donaldson	Ext. 227
Pastoral Care	Debby Leonardo	Ext. 302
	Gloria Rivera	Ext. 222
Parish Admin. Assistant /Bulletin	Alex Zarate	Ext. 242
Parish Office Secretary	Ann Hogan	Ext. 221

Kindness is the Language

Which

THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE

Parish School / Preschool through – 8th grade: 987-7908

Principal – Preschool Director	Kelly Burt	Ext. 235
Business Manager	Laura Onopa	Ext. 245
Administrative Assistant	Maria Trujillo	Ext. 234

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, as members of the Roman Catholic Church, are a sacramental, worshipping community on a journey towards the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom. We strive to provide a spiritual haven for all people without distinction. We are equally committed to the challenges of the gospel message. We accept its call to ongoing conversion, the use of our gifts for the benefit of our community, and loving service to one another.

Pray for the dead
and
Fight to the end for the living

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
53rd WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 JANUARY 2020

**PEACE AS A JOURNEY OF HOPE:
DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION AND ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION**

1. Peace, a journey of hope in the face of obstacles and trial

Peace is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family. As a human attitude, our hope for peace is marked by an existential tension that makes it possible for the present, with all its difficulties, to be “lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey”.^[1] Hope is thus the virtue that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. Our human community bears, in its memory and its flesh, the scars of ever more devastating wars and conflicts that affect especially the poor and the vulnerable. Entire nations find it difficult to break free of the chains of exploitation and corruption that fuel hatred and violence. Even today, dignity, physical integrity, freedom, including religious freedom, communal solidarity and hope in the future are denied to great numbers of men and women, young and old. Many are the innocent victims of painful humiliation and exclusion, sorrow and injustice, to say nothing of the trauma born of systematic attacks on their people and their loved ones.

The terrible trials of internal and international conflicts, often aggravated by ruthless acts of violence, have an enduring effect on the body and soul of humanity. Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys the human family’s innate vocation to brotherhood. War, as we know, often begins with the inability to accept the diversity of others, which then fosters attitudes of aggrandizement and domination born of selfishness and pride, hatred and the desire to caricature, exclude and even destroy the other. War is fueled by a perversion of relationships, by hegemonic ambitions, by abuses of power, by fear of others and by seeing diversity as an obstacle. And these, in turn, are aggravated by the experience of war.

As I observed during [my recent Apostolic Journey to Japan](#), our world is paradoxically marked by “a perverse dichotomy that tries to defend and ensure stability and peace through a false sense of security sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust, one that ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any form of dialogue. Peace and international stability are incompatible with attempts to build upon the fear of mutual destruction or the threat of total annihilation. They can be achieved only on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family of today and tomorrow”.^[2] Every threatening situation feeds mistrust and leads people to withdraw into their own safety zone. Mistrust and fear weaken relationships and increase the risk of violence, creating a vicious circle that can never lead to a relationship of peace. Even nuclear deterrence can only produce the illusion of security.

We cannot claim to maintain stability in the world through the fear of annihilation, in a volatile situation, suspended on the brink of a nuclear abyss and enclosed behind walls of indifference. As a result, social and economic decisions are being made that lead to tragic situations where human beings and creation itself are discarded rather than protected and preserved.^[3] How, then, do we undertake a journey of peace and mutual respect? How do we break the unhealthy mentality of threats and fear? How do we break the current dynamic of distrust? We need to pursue a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust. The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this.

correlative: the recognition of his or her duties with regard to others. The sense and practice of duty are themselves conditioned by the capacity for self-mastery and by the acceptance of responsibility and of the limits placed upon the freedom of individuals or the groups”.^[7]

Divisions within a society, the increase of social inequalities and the refusal to employ the means of ensuring integral human development endanger the pursuit of the common good. Yet patient efforts based on the power of the word and of truth can help foster a greater capacity for compassion and creative solidarity.

In our Christian experience, we constantly remember Christ, who gave his life to reconcile us to one another (cf. *Rom* 5:6-11). The Church shares fully in the search for a just social order; she continues to serve the common good and to nourish the hope for peace by transmitting Christian values and moral teaching, and by her social and educational works.

[Read full message: Message of his holiness Pope Francis](#)

[for the celebration of the 53rd World Day of Peace](#)