

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Cathedral of the Holy Name
Cardinal Oswald Gracias
March 25, 2022 – Feast of the Annunciation

I. Opening Hymn

O Lord, furnace of love,
Set our hearts on fire with charity.

Where there is hatred, let's sow His love.
Where there is injury, let us show pardon.
Where there is strife, let us bring His peace.
Where there is error, truth.

Where there is doubt, let's kindle faith.
Where there's discouragement, let's bring assurance.
Where there is sadness, let's awaken joy.
Where there is darkness, light.

II. Introduction:

My dear brothers and sisters! The war in Ukraine is still continuing fiercely and there is no sign of diminishing in the suffering and distress of the people, the loss of life, and colossal damage to basic infrastructure and essential services. The Holy Father has repeatedly made efforts for peace with calls to prayer, sending of envoys to different places, and appeals to cease all violence. We in the Archdiocese of Bombay as one family join the Holy Father in his prayers to bring peace to a world that is seeing more and more violence, and in a war that threatens to engulf other countries in a spiral of violence. Let us now maintain a moment of silence as we stand before the Prince of Peace specially praying for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia.

III. Scripture: (CHOOSE ONE)

1. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:6-7
2. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." — John 14:27
3. At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11: 25-30

IV. Reflection Points (5 – 7mins)

Mother Teresa Speech on Peace

- The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace.
- Let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world. Let us use love and compassion. Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace. Let us radiate the peace of God and so light His light and extinguish in the world and in the hearts of all men all hatred and love for power. Today, if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other-that man, that woman, that child is my brother or my sister. If everyone could see the image of God in his neighbor, do you think we would still need tanks and generals?
- Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families. If we want to spread joy, we need for every family to have joy.
- Today, nations put too much effort and money into defending their borders. They know very little about the poverty and the suffering that exist in the countries where those bordering on destitution live. If they would only defend these defenseless people with food, shelter, and clothing, I think the world would be a happier place.
- The poor must know that we love them, that they are wanted. They themselves have nothing to give but love. We are concerned with how to get this message

of love and compassion across. We are trying to bring peace to the world through our work. But the work is the gift of God.

Some Quotes from Fratelli Tutti

- “Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all” (FT, 8)
- “True, a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together” (FT, 32)
- “We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people’s troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment” (FT, 77)
- “Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others” (FT, 115)
- “Nor can we fail to mention that seeking and pursuing the good of others and of the entire human family also implies helping individuals and societies to mature in the moral values that foster integral human development...Even more, it suggests a striving for excellence and what is best for others, their growth in maturity and health, the cultivation of values and not simply material wellbeing. A similar expression exists in Latin: *benevolentia*. This is an attitude that ‘wills the good’ of others; it bespeaks a yearning for goodness, an inclination towards all that is fine and excellent, a desire to fill the lives of others with what is beautiful, sublime and edifying” (FT, 112)

V. Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. He gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace. We bring to him our petitions for peace in the world.

Our response is: Lord, let your peace reign

1. For the leaders of Ukraine and Russia; that they place the wellbeing of innocent people ahead of personal and political interests; that right reason may prevail in their every decision leading the countries to peace . . . we pray to the Lord.
2. For those involved in negotiations between the two countries; that as peacemakers they may be filled with God's wisdom and divine intervention, to turn the hearts of the offenders to compassion and fill the victims with peace. . . we pray to the Lord.
3. For all the Refugees and those affected by the war; that they may find safe havens and trustworthy support systems to sustain them; and that they find the strength and means to start over once the crisis ends. . . we pray to the Lord.
4. For all who have lost their lives due to this conflict; that they receive the eternal reward promised by the Father in the divine kingdom, where peace rules forever and every tear is wiped away . . . we pray to the Lord.
5. We pause for a few moments and remember our own personal intentions . . . we pray to the Lord.

Let us sum up our prayers and petitions in the words Our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us... **Our Father.**

VI. PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (as send by the Holy Father)

VII. Benediction

(While the Celebrant incenses the Blessed Sacrament)

Tantum ergo Sacramentum, Veneremur cernui:

Et antiquum documentum, Novo cedat ritui:

Praestet fides supplementum, Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque, Laus et iubilatio,

Salus, honor, virtus quoque, Sit et benedictio:

Procedenti ab utroque, Compar sit laudatio. Amen

- Let us pray....
- Final Blessing.

VIII. Concluding Hymn:

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is hatred let me bring your love

Where there is injury, your pardon Lord

And where there is doubt true faith in You

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is despair in life let me bring hope

Where there is darkness only light

And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

It is in giving to all men that we receive

And in dying that we are born to eternal life.