

A Reading from an Angelus Homily of Pope Francis

Today, dear brothers and sisters, I wish to add my voice to the cry which rises up with increasing anguish from every part of the world...

from the one great family which is humanity.

It is the cry for peace!

It is a cry which declares with force:

We want a peaceful world; we want to be men and women of peace ...

and we want in our society, torn apart by divisions and conflict, that peace break out!

There are so many conflicts in this world which cause me great suffering and worry, but in these days my heart is deeply wounded by what is happening in Syria and by the dramatic developments which are looming.

I appeal strongly for peace ...

How much suffering, how much devastation, how much pain has the use of arms carried in its wake ...

I think of many children who will not see the light of the future!

With utmost firmness I condemn the use of chemical weapons.

There is a judgment of God and of history upon our actions which is inescapable!

Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake.

War begets war; violence begets violence.

What can we do to make peace in the world?

As Pope John said, it pertains to each individual to establish new relationships in human society under the mastery and guidance of justice and love.

All men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace.

I make a forceful and urgent call to the entire Catholic Church, and also to every Christian of other confessions as well as to followers of every religion

and to those brothers and sister who do not believe:

Peace is a good which overcomes every barrier, because it belongs to all of humanity.

I repeat forcefully:

It is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony with and between peoples, but it is a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue;

This is the only way to peace.

May the plea for peace rise up and touch the hearts of everyone so that they may lay down their weapons and let themselves be led by the desire for peace.



- Pope Francis