

# United Nations Day 24 October

## - Reflection and Prayer

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*Spend some time reflecting on the following passages:*

(The United Nations is) the only place where the entire world comes together to sort out its problems ... This reminds us of the power of the UN as a house of transformation. It (the UN) has deepened our understanding of integral humanism that marks us as human beings. We know one another as we were never able to know one another before. Communications and transportation are mechanisms to facilitate this. Technology has made me aware that my neighbour is also the person on the other side of the world. It follows for me that just as I expect justice for myself and justice for my neighbour I have to expect justice for people wherever they are. This brings us to the point that you were making of the inherent right to justice that people have wherever they are.

*Douglas Roche*

**The General Assembly and the Security Council don't have any windows  
so [NGOs] provide them with a window on the world.**

*Joe Donnelly, Caritas Internationalis*

We are beginning to discover  
that our problem is worldwide,  
and no one people of the Earth  
can work out its salvation  
by detaching itself from others.  
Either we shall be saved together  
or drawn together  
into destruction.

*Rabindranath Tagore*



The United Nations was not created to be a global government but is the product of the political will of individual member States. Thus, it is the child orphaned by HIV/AIDS, the boys and girls sold or forced into slavery, those who wake each morning not knowing if today they will be persecuted for their faith or the colour of their skin, who continue to cry out for an institution and leaders who will back their words with actions, commitments and results. These voices, which are too often ignored, must finally be listened to, so that we can move beyond political, geographical and historical divisions and create an organization which reflects our best intentions rather than our various failings.

*Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations 2008*



Serving Christ's mission today means paying special attention to the global context. This context requires us to act as a universal body with a universal mission, realising at the same time the radical diversity of our situations. It is as a worldwide community—and, simultaneously, as a network of local communities—that we seek to serve others across the world. Our mission of faith and justice, dialogue of religions and cultures, has acquired dimensions that no longer allow us to conceive of the

world as composed of separate entities; we must see it as a unified whole in which we depend upon one another. Globalisation, technology and environmental concerns have challenged our traditional boundaries and have enhanced our awareness that we bear a common responsibility for the welfare of the entire world and its development in a sustainable and life-giving way.

*Decree #2 A Fire That kindles Other Fires: Rediscovering Our Charism  
35th General Congregation, Society of Jesus*

## **PRAYER**

### **An Orthodox Christian Prayer for Peace**

God and Creator of all people on Earth,  
Guide all the nations and their leaders  
in the ways of justice and peace.  
Protect us from the evils of injustice,  
prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war.  
Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.  
Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.  
Lead us to find justice, peace and freedom.  
Unite us in the making and creating of the tools of peace  
against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression.  
Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters  
created in your image, to your honour and praise.  
Amen.



*[Adapted from a prayer of the Center of Concern]*



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