

Pray for Peace and for the Conversion of Russia

On Sunday, March 20th, Pope Francis called the war in Ukraine “a senseless massacre, where havoc and atrocities are repeated every day,” in his weekly Sunday address and blessing. “I beg all the actors of the international community to make a real effort to put an end to this repugnant war,” the head of the Catholic Church told the crowd in St Peter’s Square after his Angelus Prayer.

“This week, missiles and bombs hit civilians, the elderly, children and pregnant mothers,” Pope Francis said, adding he visited injured children treated in Rome. “One of them is missing an arm, another one wounded in the head, innocent children,” the Pope said. “Let us stay close to this battered people, embrace them with affection and with concrete commitment and prayer, and please do not get used to war and violence,” he added.

Pope Francis invited “every faithful and every community” to join him on March 25, the day of the Christian Annunciation, “in carrying out a solemn act of consecration of humanity, especially of Russia and Ukraine.”

“All this is inhumane; indeed, it is also sacrilegious because it goes against the sacredness of human life. Especially against defenseless human life, which must be respected and protected, not eliminated, and which comes before any strategy, let's not forget, it is cruel, inhuman and sacrilegious,” he concluded.

******On Friday, March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the Holy Father has specifically invited the bishops of the world to join him in the Act of Consecration of Humanity especially Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pursuant to that request, Bishop Koenig will lead the Diocese of Wilmington in the Act of Consecration at the Cathedral of Saint Peter beginning at Noon (5 p.m. Rome Time). Mass for the Solemnity will follow. Our Pastor, Father Kirk, along with other priests from the Diocese will be concelebrants. Please join in the unity of prayer at that time for the conversion of Russia and for peace.