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To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In light of the devastating war being launched against Ukraine, it is worthwhile reflecting on the words of the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II, which reads in part, "For though the human race is divided by dissension and discord, yet we know that by testing us you change our hearts to prepare them for reconciliation. Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts that enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries join hands, and peoples seek to meet together."

Our prayer to end dissension and discord is needed now, as we watch the fallout of the invasion of Ukraine, and particularly on Thursday, 24 March, when the leaders of NATO will gather to discuss the situation and seek resolution. Then, on Friday, 25 March, the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, our Holy Father has asked us, along with all the diocesan Churches across the globe, to join him in consecrating the countries of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Bishop Joseph and I will broadcast our prayers for the consecration of Ukraine and Russia from our Cathedral on Friday.

I am asking all the faithful in the Diocese to join me in those two moments of prayer this coming week: a prayer to the Holy Spirit on Thursday, for the guidance of the leaders of NATO, and on Friday, united with the faithful across the globe, for the consecration to Mary. We need to pray for a change of hearts that will lead to reconciliation and so that "enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries join hands, and peoples seek to meet together."

I am asking also that pastors and administrators ensure this request is made public this weekend through announcements at Sunday Masses and on your websites. The faithful who are not able to join in the consecration on Friday may offer one decade of the Rosary to our Blessed Mother for this intention.

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, CSB*

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London