



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI48

A.Y. 2021-2022

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : THE EASTER MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

DATE : 20 APRIL 2022

In the Season of Easter, the University would like to encourage the Thomasian community to read and reflect on the full text of the "*Urbi et Orbi*"¹ Message for Easter of His Holiness Pope Francis (See attachment). The Office of the Secretary-General would also like to offer seven (7) key takeaways from the said Easter message as follows:

1. **Peace amidst Incredulity:** The Risen Lord stands in the midst of those who mourn and says: "Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:19). He shows the wounds in His hands and feet, and in His side. Before the incredulous eyes of the disciples, He repeats: "Peace be with you!" (v. 21).
2. **Easter of Pandemic and War:** We need Our Lord Jesus to stand in our midst at the end of a Lent that seems to be endless as we emerge from the pandemic and this Easter of war.
3. **The Wounds of Love:** The wounds of our Lord were inflicted by our sins, and He bore them for our sake. He did not cancel those wounds from His glorified body to be the indelible seal of His love for us.
4. **Peace in Ukraine:** Let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries! May there be peace for war-torn Ukraine. We hear the cry of pain of the children, the dying, the hungry, the victims of abuse and violence, and those denied the right to be born.
5. **Encouraging Signs:** Amidst the war, there are encouraging signs, such as the *open doors* of families and communities, that welcome migrants and refugees throughout Europe. May these acts of charity become a blessing for our societies.
6. **Peace in the World:** May there be peace in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the rest of the Middle East; in Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Africa, particularly in the Sahel region, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo. May there be healing and solidarity in the eastern part of South Africa; in Latin America, and in Canada. May the Spirit of the risen Christ heal the wounds of the past and dispose hearts to seek truth and fraternity.

¹ The *Urbi et Orbi* Message, which is a papal address directed 'to the city [of Rome]' (*Urbi*) and (*et*) 'to the world' (*Orbi*) is given by the pope on certain solemn occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

7. **The Victory of Christ:** Faced with the continuing signs of war, as well as the many painful setbacks to life, Jesus Christ, the Victor over sin, fear and death, exhorts us not to surrender to evil and violence. Peace is everyone's primary responsibility!

The LORD is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P., EHL
Secretary-General