

## SEPTEMBER 2014: THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO PEACE

**To all of you who seek for peace:**

**Peace!**

Since 1981, the 21st of September have been designated as the International Day for Peace by the UN, in order to reinforce the ideals of peace, amongst the nations and peoples, as well as between them. This year, the theme that has been chosen is "The Right of Peoples to Peace", in order to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the "Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace". I invite you to support with our prayer this initiative of the UN.

This declaration has been approved on the 11th November 1984 by the 39/11 resolution of the General Assembly of the UN and was based on the fundamental principals of international right; it expresses the desire and will of all peoples to eliminate war from the life of humanity, and, more importantly, to prevent a worldwide nuclear catastrophe. The absence of war is an essential condition for the well-being, the material prosperity and the progress of the States. In this nuclear era, the durable instauration of peace on Earth is an essential condition of the preservation of the human civilization and the survival of humanity. In order to guarantee to all the peoples a pacific life, this important document

" - Solemnly proclaims that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace.

- Solemnly declares that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State;

- Emphasizes that ensuring the exercise of the right of peoples to peace demands that the policies of States be directed towards the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, the renunciation of the use of force in international relations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations;

- Appeals to all States and international organizations to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right of peoples to peace through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and the international level."

So that this right be guaranteed and that the 21st of september be fully lived, let us pray the Lord, inspired by the words of the General Secretary of the UN, Ban Ki-moon:

*"Lord God, Creator and Savior, by the Christ, your Son and our Lord, you prepared for the entire humanity a future of peace. For the celebration of the International Day of Peace, we supplicate you: may the entire humanity defend the right to peace and the soldiers drop their weapons. Animated by your Spirit, may us mark our solidarity towards the civils killed by terrorism and war, towards the traumatized families that have no house nor future and towards the countries whose development level has come back to the level of several decades ago. May all those who want peace work with their friends, their neighbors, their government and the local organizations, to promote the exercice of the right of the peoples to peace. Thus, all of your sons and daughters will do what is agreeable to your eyes and the work of your hands will praise you for ever! Amen.*

Kind regards,

Br. Irénée Rezende Guimarães

Benedict monk at Notre-Dame Abbey, Tournay, France

Tournay, 14th August 2014