

The Way of Peace between Russia and Ukraine and the crucial role of the UN

April 25th April 2022

<http://www.lametino.it/Economia-di-Pace/la-via-della-pace-tra-russia-ed-ucraina-e-il-ruolo-cruciale-dell-onu.html>

Two months ago, the first Russian attack on Ukraine began, the war.

A few weeks ago in the face of the inhumane and unpredictable development of the war between Russia and Ukraine, an apparently local war, in fact global, convinced of the need to start a constructive and credible dialogue between the parties, aware of our limitations, as ordinary citizens launched a provocation, a silent prayer inspired by the testimony of St. Francis, master of dialogue. Dialogue, which to be authentic, must be based on respect for the other. (<http://www.lametino.it/Economia-di-Pace/la-via-della-pace-tra-russia-e-ucraina-ci-vorrebbe-san-francesco.html>).

The more the days pass, the more the hope of a truce and above all of the start of an "authentic" dialogue fades.

We are reminded of the words spoken by Pope Francis a few days ago during an interview "... difficult to say, but the world has chosen Cain's scheme, to kill his brother" (https://www.vaticannews.va/it/papa/news/2022-04/papa-francesco-intervista-sua-immagine-lorena-bianchetti-guerra.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NewsletterVN-IT)

These words in the face of brotherhood denied and violated every day more and more, during this absurd war, invite us to reflect on the question that arose from the heart of Cain, in response to God's request of where brother Abel was: "I am perhaps I am my brother's keeper".

With strength and determination we maintain that the challenge facing all of us, all of humanity, today is knowing how to build a common response that can only be "YES ": each of us is called to guard and promote the life of the brother.

Politics, the "good" one, has a long look, because it looks to the future. While trying to interpret the daily reality in which it is immersed, it worries about tomorrow, looks to the future of the life of humanity and the planet, thinks of the youngest and the smallest, wonders how to give answers to their thirst for the future. If the origin from which violence arises is the hearts of men, then it is essential to walk the path of non-violence first within the family and then in our life in society. Despite the darkness, we continue to see a little light in the upcoming meetings that the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, will have next week in Moscow and Kiev (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116562>)

We trust in a possible and necessary miracle: that the sense of reality may prevail on the part of all the protagonists by agreeing on actions for an immediate truce, a prelude to the construction of a tomorrow for future generations, which knows how to combine the roots of the past with the challenge of future to promote "integral human development".

Where to start?

From the origins of humanity: After God's silence (bohu = emptiness, silence) (Gn 1, 1-2), God said: Fiat lux and there was light (Gn 1,3 = and the spark struck) ... And God he said: let us make man in our image and likeness, male and female he created them (Gn 1,26-27) (1). Here are the origins of humanity, after the creation of the world God created man and woman by recognizing them as co-creators of their future by giving them: freedom, intellect and will. All equal in diversity, all of the same essence, all gift of the Creator, all with the right to live from creation. God, infinite goodness (bonum diffusivum sui - cfr. Bonaventura, Collationes in Hexaëmeron, I, 17, vol. V, p .332), he wanted our participation in the realization of the divine plans; making us co-creators by entrusting us with the management of the universe. To face the future, a future of fraternity, we must look to our origins, we must return to the "Creator", to God, as the guarantor of the Supreme Good. Franciscan thought brings us back to meditating on our origins. The dream of the Franciscan vision is well described in the painting of the "Allegory of Good Government" by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1338-1339) in the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena: the unification of men into one large family, with a thousand faces, through the dream of rediscovered fraternity, source of the Creator's originality. A picture that can inspire the talks of the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres.

In the hope that these talks can initiate a "dialogue" between the parties, we hope that this dialogue will be enriched in the future by the involvement of the

representatives of the various religions. On the occasion of the Orthodox Easter we conclude our reflection by taking up some considerations written in a recent article by the Secretary General of Religions for Peace, Prof. Azza Karam

((<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/arrogance-ignorance-war-ukraine-religion-abiding-ethnocentrism/>) in which, referring to the coincidence of many religious holidays in this month of April (2), she writes: "*Definitely the best time, then, to pray for – or for those of tender anti-religious sensibilities let us say ‘to reflect’ on: the twin birth of humility and mercy*"

May this month end with the launch of a process that can guide the whole of humanity to work together to build a future of Peace.

Nelida Ancora – UNIAPAC Delegata dialogo ecumenico ed interreligioso
(<https://uniapac.org/governance/>)

Oreste Bazzichi – Pontificia Facoltà Teologica San Bonaventura
(<https://www.sanbonaventuraseraphicum.org/>)