

Fr. Martin's Reflection – January 30, 2022

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Mt 5:9

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Sunday, January 23, Pope Francis spoke after the Angelus about the current situation in the Ukraine:

‘I am following with concern the increase of tensions that threaten to inflict a new blow to the peace in Ukraine, and call into question the security of the European continent, with wider repercussions. I make a heartfelt appeal to all people of good will, that they may raise prayers to God Almighty, that every political action and initiative may serve human brotherhood, rather than partisan interests. Those who pursue their own interests, to the detriment of others, disregard their human vocation, as we were all created as brothers and sisters. For this reason, and with concern, given the current tensions, I propose that Wednesday, January 26, be a day of prayer for peace.’

I know January 26 has passed, but unfortunately the danger hasn't, please continue to pray for the people involved in causing this tension and for all who are involved in diffusing it, may they allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit. This is a prayer I composed for the prayer of the faithful – please feel free to use it or any prayer of your own choosing.

Lord Jesus, you said to us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” We pray that Russia and Ukraine will pull back from hostilities and may they find a way to peace and reconciliation through dialogue.

This coming week we have several important feasts:

Monday we celebrate the feast of St. John Bosco – he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth.

Wednesday we celebrate The Presentation of the Lord. Lk 2:22-35. “... Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

Thursday, we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise – a saint very much associated with disorders of the throat.



Tuesday, February 1st, is the feast of St. Brigid – Patroness Saint of Ireland 451 – 525. She has always found herself in the shadow of St. Patrick, but her effect on Irish church history is legendary. A symbol associated with her is the St. Brigid's Cross. The story goes:

A pagan chieftain from the neighborhood of Kildare was dying. Christians in his household sent for Brigid to talk to him about Christ. When she arrived, the chieftain was raving. As it was impossible to instruct this delirious man, hopes for his conversion seemed doubtful. Brigid sat down at this bedside and began consoling him. As was customary, the dirt floor was strewn with rushes both for warmth and cleanliness. Brigid stooped down and started to weave them into a cross, fastening the points together. The sick man asked what she was doing. She began to explain the cross, and as she talked, his delirium quieted, and he questioned her with growing interest. Through her weaving, he converted and was baptised at the point of death. Since then, the cross of rushes has existed in Ireland.

Dear friends, I pray that you, like the old chieftain, will allow St. Brigid to introduce you to the Cross of Christ, a symbol of God's deep and everlasting love for you and all humanity.

Have a wonderful and blessed week.

Fr. Martin