

Congratulations Address: Peace is a Gift from God

Louison Mbila

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African Union (AU) Chaplain



Dear Mother Moon, Mother of Peace, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Religious Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen, Peace is not only a gift; it is also a task entrusted to us.

Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God". Bringing together peacemakers from all cultures and religious backgrounds, as UPF does, is by itself a great sign of hope for peacebuilding in our broken world. World leaders can learn from UPF and should give a listening ear to the contribution of religious and spiritual traditions to the common good. Indeed, "people and societies which dismiss the importance of spiritual values and moral guidelines are susceptible to lose their humanity and creativity."

Finally, the world will never experience lasting peace if some members of the human family are denied their God given right to worship freely and express their faith in a public manner. As a matter of fact, the human person is not just a mass of flesh, bones and blood vessels; he or she does not live by bread alone, but is open to something greater, to the transcendent. Every person has the right to religious freedom. We should not be afraid of those who believes or worship differently from us and stop them from bringing their contribution to the establishment of a just social order. As Jesus "For whoever is not against you is for you."

Have a blessed Rally of Hope. God bless you all.