

Newsletter No 3 April 2022



Pope Francis' April Intentions

“For health care workers”

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Reflection

Let us reflect on the commitment of our health care workers particularly during the last two years.

Can I do more to assist the elderly who are often regulated to a sad and lonely existence? (Fratelli Tutti Par 19)

[For health care workers – The Pope Video 04 – April 2022 - YouTube](#)

Ukraine

Anatolij Babynyskyi's latest piece about the humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine can be read here

<https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/i-have-never-seen-such-fear-ukraines?s=r>

PEACE

On the Feast of the Annunciation Pope Francis, seated before the statute of Our Lady of Fatima consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary with these words:

“Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine.”

Seamus Mc Donald President, Fr. Andreas Jakober Ecclesiastical Assistant, Diamond Ovueraye VP,
Francesco Campagna VP, Paul Okelo Odwori Treasurer, Gerald Harbinson Secretary General.

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“Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world,”



Pope Francis praying for peace

May we turn to Mary the Untier of Knots asking her intercession to untie the knots of our hearts and consciences and that we all see the face of Jesus in the other irrespective of nationality race or colour.

As Pope Francis reminds us

“Nothing is impossible for God’s mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by his grace,”

Making the Encyclicals alive in Nigeria

Unum-Omnes was represented at the 1st Plenary Session of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCN) held in Abuja Nigeria on 7th March 2022 by its Vice President Sir Diamond Ovueraye. The purpose of his attendance was to bring to the notice of the Bishops that the message of the Pope Francis Encyclical “Laudato Si” and indeed the three Encyclicals issued by him so far is not reaching down to the grass roots of the Church in general and not only in Nigeria. The three Encyclicals issued so far by Pope Francis are:

- **Lumen Fidei**
- **Laudato Si**
- **Fratelli Tuti**

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Cross-Section of the Bishops at the CBCN 1st Plenary Session 2022

Coincidentally the Theme of the Conference was "Fratelli Tutti: Path to Building Sustainable Peace in Nigeria". During the Session a Guest Lecturer took us through the Holy Father's Encyclical **Fratelli Tutti** chapter by chapter explaining what messages the Holy Father is sending to the Church. He explained that the Pope was motivated to write the encyclical following the joint document - "**Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together**" - issued by him and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyeb in Abu Dhabi on 4th February 2019. The Lecturer tied the Pope's messages to what we can do in Nigeria to achieve sustainable peace.



**Cross-Section of Attendants at the CBCN 1st Plenary Session 2022
With VP Unum-Omnnes - Sir Diamond Ovueraye**

Seamus Mc Donald President, Fr. Andreas Jakober Ecclesiastical Assistant, Diamond Ovueraye VP,
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The Bishops were reluctant to take on the responsibility of setting up the Committees proposed, but will support any efforts by any group in the Church (Unum-Omnes inclusive) that wants to help disseminate the messages of the Encyclicals to the grassroots. This is even more so for Laudato Si which is concerned about our common home and what we can do to protect it.

The Way Forward:

We will explore further with the Chairman of the Pastoral Affairs Department of the Catholic Secretariat of CBCN in Abuja with a view to identifying what Unum-Omnes can do to help in drafting simple local Laudato Si and Lumen Fidei summaries that can be distributed gratis to the laity.

Short Laudato Si' Summary

To serially bring the message of the Holy Father's Encyclical "Laudato Si" to the grassroots, the decision has been taken by the Bureau to publish short summaries of the Encyclical one chapter at a time on a monthly basis in our Newsletters. We are counting on all members of the organization Unum Omnes to help circulate it down the line in their various Catholic Communities.

CHAPTER ONE – WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COMMON HOME

Goal: "Theological and philosophical reflections on the situation of humanity and the world can sound tiresome and abstract, unless they are grounded in a fresh analysis of our present situation, which is in many ways unprecedented in the history of humanity. So, before considering how faith brings new incentives and requirements with regard to the world of which we are a part, I will briefly turn to what is happening to our common home" (#17).

Message: "But a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves" (#34).

**Diamond Ovueraye
VP**

FIHC Unum Omnes Palazzo San Calisto 00120 Citta del Vaticano Rome
www.unum-omnes.org

**Seamus Mc Donald President, Fr. Andreas Jakober Ecclesiastical Assistant, Diamond Ovueraye VP,
Francesco Campagna VP, Paul Okelo Odwori Treasurer, Gerald Harbinson Secretary General.**