

## 2nd Week of Lent

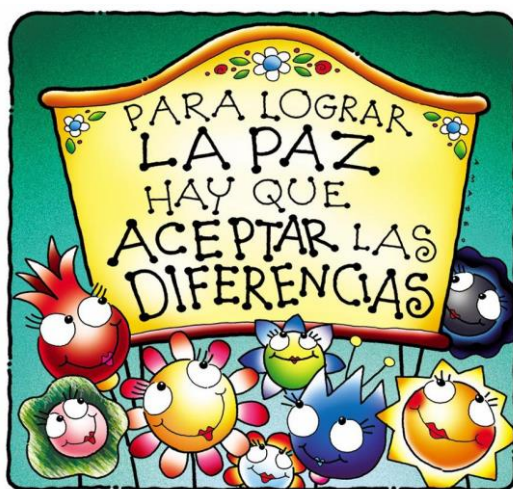
MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

PRAY FOR PEACE

“Let us not grow tired of praying. Jesus taught us to “pray always without becoming weary” ( Lk 18:1). We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. Is 7:9). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history; [2] and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life’s burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:1-5).”



- First Reading. Gn 22, 1-2. 9-13. God makes a covenant with Abraham, the believer.
- Second Reading. Rm 8, 31b-34. Brothers: If God is for us, who can be against us? ...
- Gospel. Mc 9, 2-10. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed.



Pope Francis began Lent celebration asking people across the world to fast and pray in solidarity with the people of Ukraine:

**May we, during this second week of Lent, generate prayer spaces for world peace.**

***If God is for us, who can be against us? ...***

**Dear friends of the ACI Family, dear Sisters:**

**May this testimony help us to stand in solidarity --as ACI Family-- with each one of our brothers who suffer because of the war.**

**Message from Kiev**



*“Dear friends, brothers and sisters from different parts of our world:*

*We speak to you at this dark time for all of us, when the black clouds of explosions cover the sun over our capital.*

*Tonight, the elite special forces of the Russian Federation together with Chechen units will storm one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the world, the spiritual capital of Eastern Europe: the city of Kiev.*

*Street fighting is already underway in Kiev and everyone who can wield guns has defended the capital, including pensioners,*

*students and schoolchildren. The night and tomorrow to come are critical, everything that the entire civilized world has believed and built up to now is at stake. With tears in our eyes, we ask you, no matter what time zone you are in, to spend all this time fasting and praying to God. Pray to the Lord to protect us from the hordes of madmen who want to make fun of the faith and the truth of God.”*

*Your brothers and sisters from Ukraine*



With friendship,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Laverde López, Sylvestra Bardeskar,  
Vanessa Amarelle, H. Brigit Viji, Sr. Pilar Guzmán, Sr. Maria Vaz Pinto  
III International Commission of the ACI Family