

**Greetings from the Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine,  
Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti**

Dear friends! Dear participants of the conference!

We are here together and in peace, believing and hoping for a more brotherly world. We want men and women of different religions to unite and find agreement anywhere, especially there, where there are conflicts. Our future is to live together. That is why, we are called to break free from the heavy burden of distrust, fundamentalism and hatred. Let believers become artisans (creators) of peace through prayers brought to God and actions for the good of man! And we, as religious leaders, must be strong bridges of dialogue, creative mediators of peace. We also appeal to those, who bear the greatest responsibility in the service to the nations, to the leaders of nations, so that they do not get tired of seeking and promoting the ways of peace, going beyond the interests of only one party or a particular moment. God's appeal to our conscience, the cry of the poor for peace and the good hopes of the young generations – let them be heard!

We, Christians, are forced to live in peace. If we do not promote it, then by our actions we declare that we are not Christians. "If your brother has something against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him" (Luke 17:3). The words of the Gospel are very clear.

Even the most solemn places, where bishops have met for the most important recognition and penetration in depths of faith, have been called "councils" in the West, which, etymologically, comes from "to convene". The word "church" has the same meaning. In the Eastern tradition, they have been called "synods", that is, "coming together". Any rejection of dialogue is a rejection of God, who is Love.

Let us pray and work for this to happen in Ukraine, as well as among those, who are called to promote spiritual benefit of Ukrainian Christians.