

SUMMARY REMARKS

By Cardinal Peter Turkson

This has been a very enriching evening. We have become more aware of the pain and sorrow being experienced by the people of South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Yet in the midst of this there is such strength and hope. Following the path of peace and nonviolence is a difficult journey, but it was the path of Jesus. We are called as Christians to be persons of prayer and action. We are to see with the eyes of Christ, to judge the reality with his compassionate heart being guided by our Scriptures and Catholic Social Tradition, and to act for the well-being of one another.

This evening we heard stories of how to be persons committed to personal peace, how to live in peace engaging in dialogue, being forgiving and practicing nonviolence and how to sustain peace through our decisions and relationships. It is encouraging for us as church to know that the dialogue will continue and networking will be established as our stories continue to be told together. So I would like to invite you to make a commitment to this future action.

Moved by the spirit and dedication of the prayer with Pope Francis and with the Round Table Dialogues, we commit to “Building Peace Together” through prayer and action with the people in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rome and the Vatican. (Invite the participants to respond with AMEN.)

As a symbol of our solidarity with the people of South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo I ask Bishop Paolo Lojudice to come forward to present the two statues of our Blessed Mother which were blessed by Pope Francis at the November Prayer Service for both countries.

Salve Regina led by the DRC Choir