

# PEACE

## *John Paul Speaks*

*Notable quotations from Pope John Paul II and  
official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church*

### **40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Almost forty years ago, ... Pope John XXIII published his epic Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*... [He] summed up his message of “peace on earth” in the first sentence...: “Peace on earth, which all men of every era have most eagerly yearned for, can be firmly established and sustained only if the order laid down by God be dutifully observed.”

### **“ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR PEACE”**

John XXIII identified the essential conditions for peace in four precise requirements of the human spirit: *truth, justice, love and freedom*...

### **TRUTH AND JUSTICE**

*Truth* will build peace if every individual sincerely acknowledges not only his rights, but also his duties towards others. *Justice* will build peace if in practice everyone respects the rights of others and actually fulfills his duties towards them.

### **LOVE AND FREEDOM**

*Love* will build peace if people feel the needs of others as their own and share what they have with others, especially the values of mind and spirit which they possess. *Freedom* will build peace and make it thrive if, in the choice of the means to that end, people act according to reason and assume responsibility for their own actions.

### **“THE ROAD TO PEACE”**

The road to peace ... lay in the defense and promotion of basic human rights, which every human being enjoys, not as a benefit given by a different social class or conceded by the State but simply because of our humanity.

### **“UNBREAKABLE BOND”**

There is an unbreakable bond between *the work of peace* and *respect for truth*. Honesty in the supply of information, equity in legal systems, openness in democratic procedures give citizens a sense of security, a readiness to settle controversies by peaceful means, and a desire for genuine and constructive dialogue, all of which constitute *the true premises of a lasting peace*.

### **“GESTURES OF PEACE”**

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