

ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Message of Peace on the Occasion of Celebration of International Peace Day

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ethiopian Catholic Church spreads values of the Gospel which are the Charter of the Kingdom of God, with the conviction that those values transform humanity from within and bring peace, happiness and harmony among peoples.

In order to keep social and cultural values of the people intact, the Church believes that to work for peace and human development is the area where we should not give a second thought. In this regard, besides active involvement in social services, the Church gives considerable importance for peace and relationship building within and among communities through her 10 diocesan jurisdictions spread out all over the country.

With the spirit of communion, friendship and productive exchange of experiences, the Catholic Church works with the same minded organizations and religious institutions for the promotion of peace and solidarity. This is in view of being aware of the challenges that a journey to enhancing peace is not a solitary duty, rather it needs the effort of all people of good will. This is solidarity which is one of the fundamental principles of the Church's Social Teaching! Thus, the concept of solidarity is about joining together with other people and working with a deep commitment for the common good of the nation and around the world.

As we begin the Third Millennium, we need to commit ourselves not to save extra time serving issues which hinder the effort of the country and the nation towards enhancing peace and development. Instead we need to be catalyst to support that same effort for peace and development by promoting solidarity and peaceful relationship among our nations and nationalities. In so doing, the Church

believes that the nation will witness prosperity which lovers of peace enjoy the most!

The Church encourages and reminds the faithful and the people of good will to stand together for the common good and unity of our country. Pray to God that may He bless our nation and keep it in unity, justice and peace.

May peace prevail on Earth!

Ethiopian Catholic Church

21st September, 2008