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Blessed are the peacemakers

(Matthew 5:9)

be brother - be sister

„Freunde des Wortes“

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Dear friends of the word,

In last year's speech in Sarajewo, Pope Francis used clear and unambiguously language: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9). This appeal is always applicable, in every generation. He does not say: "Blessed are the preachers of peace", since all are capable of proclaiming peace, even in a hypocritical, or indeed duplicitous, manner. No. He says: "Blessed are the *peacemakers*", that is, those who *make* peace. **Crafting peace is a skilled work: it requires passion, patience, experience and tenacity.** Blessed are those who sow peace by their daily actions, their attitudes and acts of kindness, of fraternity, of dialogue, of mercy... These, indeed, "shall be called children of God", **for God sows peace, always, everywhere.**"

We listen to these words at a time when humankind is being torn apart by peaceless acts in many parts of the world. It suffers and bleeds. The destructiveness which we observe in the expanse of the world often also exists in our more immediate surroundings, sometimes even in our heart. How do we react when we sense conflict? – We start judging others; we get aggressive or retreat into our shell. "Let the other party take the first step! They should apologise! I'm in the right!" Such thoughts wrinkle our hearts and let the chasm between us grow ever deeper.

Dear friends of the word, how can we become peacemakers? **Four crafted steps** can help us to achieve this goal. First we have to realise that, regardless of what somebody has done wrong, **I am also a sinner.** I'm part of the conflict! (1) Secondly, try to see **your sister/your brother** in the other person. You didn't choose them, just as you couldn't pick and choose your family members. But they are your neighbours which you should love! (2) Try to put yourself in the other person's shoe. **Try to understand why he/she acted in that way!** (3) Finally, have the courage to open up your heart and **express your emotions.** That way a climate will grow in which peace is possible. Let's be sure about this: If we try to live like this, passionately and patiently, Jesus will make us stronger. He will give us the courage to take these steps of peace. We are holding the '**key4peace**' in our hands! Regardless of what happened before, look ahead: **be brother! - be sister!**

For the OnWordTeam

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