



SPIRITUAL READING

Adapted from the “**Message to Humanity**”
Issued at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council

OUR VOCATION

We believe that the Father so loved the world that he gave His own Son to save it. Indeed, through this same Son of His He freed us from bondage to sin, reconciling all things unto Himself through Him, “making peace through the blood of his cross,” so that “we might be called sons of God, and truly be such.”

The Spirit too has been bestowed on us by the Father, that living the life of God, we might love God and the brethren, who are all of us one in Christ.

It is far from true that because we cling to Christ we are diverted from earthly duties and toils. On the contrary, faith, hope, and the love of Christ impel us to serve our brothers and sisters, thereby patterning ourselves after the example of the Divine Teacher, who “came not to be served but to serve.” Hence, the Church too was not born to dominate but to serve. He laid down His life for us, and we too ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Coming together in unity from every corner of Trinidad and Tobago we carry in our hearts the hardships, the bodily and mental distress, the sorrows, longings, and hopes of all the peoples entrusted to us. We urgently turn our thoughts to all the anxieties by which modern man is afflicted. Hence, let our concern swiftly focus first of all on those who are especially lowly, poor, and weak. Like Christ, we would have pity on the multitude weighed down with hunger, misery, and lack of knowledge. We want to fix a steady gaze on those who still lack the opportune help to achieve a way of life worthy of human beings.

As we undertake our work, therefore, we would emphasize whatever concerns the dignity of man, whatever contributes to a genuine community of peoples. “Christ’s love impels us,” for “he who sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?”