

We therefore issue this pastoral letter as both a reminder and a call:

Peace is not automatic. Peace is a choice. Peace is a responsibility. Peace is a divine mandate.

2. The Current Situation

We acknowledge the hardships affecting our people:

- The rising cost of living is causing frustration and despair.
- Political rhetoric that divides rather than unites.
- Growing impatience among citizens, especially the youth.
- Online and public discourse filled with anger, insults and misinformation.
- Isolated incidents of violence that threaten to become patterns if not addressed.

These challenges call us not to fear, but to vigilance, prayer and action rooted in love and justice.

3. A Christian Understanding of Peace

Peace is more than the absence of conflict.

Peace is:

- **Justice:** ensuring that every person is treated with dignity.
- **Truth:** seeking what is right, not what is convenient.
- **Reconciliation:** choosing dialogue over hostility.
- **Solidarity:** standing with the poor, marginalized and suffering.
- **Responsibility:** recognizing that each citizen plays a part in building the nation.

As Scripture teaches:

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...” *Colossians 3:15(NIV)*.

Peace must begin within each heart and extend to our homes, communities and national institutions.

4. A Call to Our Leaders

We urge all political, Church, civic and traditional leaders to: