

*On this Veterans Day, we remember with gratitude the sacrifices made by the men and women who protect our nation.*

*Today we express our gratitude to the veterans and their families and offer our prayers for them.*

*We owe our gratitude to those men and women who endured hardships and deprivation for our protection, sometimes paying the highest price.*

*But we Christians know that peace is something more than the absence of conflict. Christ's peace is "not as the world gives" (Jn 14:27). Saint Paul assures us that God's peace "passes all understanding" and "will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7). God's peace leads us to deeper communion with our Lord that cannot be destroyed even by the battlefield.*

*Together with our veterans, let us pursue this peace above all.*

*May you, our veterans, be encouraged with the words of the Apostle Peter, quoting the Psalmist: "He that would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do right; let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Pet 3:10-11).*

*Amen.*