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Austin McCormack <austinmccormack75@gmail.com> To: Veronika Sat 28 Oct at 12:03

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Pope Francis [Fratelli Tutti] - on war

For decades, it seemed that the world had learned a lesson from its many wars and disasters, and was slowly moving towards various forms of integration. For example, there was the dream of a united Europe, capable of acknowledging its shared roots and rejoicing in its rich diversity. We think of the firm conviction of the founders of the European Union, who envisioned a future based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent.

Our own days, however, seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a short-sighted, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. In some countries, a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies is creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interests.

Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention".

"Deceit is in the mind of those who plan evil, but those who counsel peace have joy" (Prov 12:20). Yet there are those who seek solutions in war, frequently fuelled by a breakdown in relations, abuse of power, fear of others and a tendency to see diversity as an obstacle.

War is not a ghost from the past but a constant threat. Our world is encountering growing difficulties on the slow path to peace upon which it had embarked and which had already begun to bear good fruit.

Since the outbreak of wars are once again increasing. I can only repeat: