



698/14/COM-8/2

Message to the participants in the *Go4peace* project being held at the **John Paul II Youth Centre** in Sarajevo from 27 July to 3 August 2014

Dear young people,

We have been informed that you are coming together from 15 different countries to the John Paul II Youth Centre in Sarajevo to talk about peace and reconciliation and to prepare a musical on the theme of nonviolence. It gives me great joy to hear that young people are taking positive steps to create an atmosphere of peace, and precisely in Sarajevo where wars have broken out and people have suffered terribly from hostilities and strife. You are now turning this place into a garden of peacemaking.

Perhaps you heard Pope Francis say to Middle Eastern leaders recently on the occasion of their meeting of prayer for peace (8 June 2014):

“Peacemaking calls for courage, much more so than warfare. It calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict: yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiations and no to hostilities; yes to respect for agreements and no to acts of provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. All of this takes courage, it takes strength and tenacity.”

Yes, it takes courage, and we cannot do it alone. Peace is a gift for which people of goodwill all over the world cry out to God. Let us all, wherever we are, join them in saying, “Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!”

Dear young friends, I extend my blessing to all of you. May God hold each one of you in the palm of his hand.

Stanisław Card. Ryłko
President