

Archdiocese of Castries Archbishop's Office

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2023

March of Solidarity & Peace in Vieux Fort April 16, 2023

Divine Mercy Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we the Clergy, Religious and faithful of the Catholic Community, members of other Christian denominations and the general citizenry of Saint Lucia, are all very perturbed by the escalation of violence in our country, and more particularly in the town of Vieux Fort in recent time. This, no doubt is a cause of immeasurable pain to our entire country, but especially the immediate families, friends, and relatives of the victims of these crimes. Even harder to console would be the loved ones of those who were innocent victims.

In an attempt to petition help from God, the One for Whom all things are possible, we are calling EVERY St. Lucian who is able, to join us in prayerful battle on this coming Sunday, April 16, 2023, designated by the Church as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. On this Divine Mercy Day, we propose to stage a prayerful march for peace in the town of Vieux Fort. At 4:00 p.m. we shall assemble in the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption for reflection and prayers. Following this will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through Commercial Street, unto Clarke Street, then turn right at the traffic lights to New Dock Road towards Bruceville. We intend to stop at intervals along the way, to offer special prayers for God's guidance, deliverance, and protection.

I am inviting ALL Catholics, members of other Christian denominations and all well-wishers, to join in this march of *Solidarity* and *Peace*. Please COME and be united in prayer: for the families directly affected by this present scourge; for the repose of the souls of those who have perished, especially the innocent; for the conversion of the perpetrators and their enablers AND for the protection of <u>all of us</u>, who are also in danger. Until everyone is safe, no one is safe. Come and pray earnestly for God to intervene, so that peace will once again reign in our land. With faith and confidence, let us proceed as a mighty throng, storming the heavens for these spiritual favours. Amen!

Please wear something white to symbolise the Peace for which we are praying!

END

Archdiocese of Castries, April 12, 2023

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