

# THE SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENTS

## A SYMPHONIC HOMAGE AND PRAYER

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AND PRAYER FOR ALL INNOCENT VICTIMS

KIKO ARGÜELLO, COMPOSER

PAU JORQUERA, CONDUCTOR

ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR OF THE NEOCATECHUMENAL WAY

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THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBLE TEAM OF THE NEOCATECHUMENAL WAY  
THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THE ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT  
FOR THIS INITIATIVE OF LOVE AND RECONCILIATION:

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- Most Rev. Arch. Francis Assisi Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the U.N.

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- Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg, President Emeritus of the Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation, NY

- Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Director of CAUSE-NY, Jewish Community Relations Council, NY
- Rabbi Noam Marans, Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, AJC, NY
- Rabbi Richard Marker, Past Chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, NY
- Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice President (and former President) of the New York Board of Rabbis
- Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, Temple Israel of Lawrence, NY and Secretary General North American Board of Rabbis
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, host of Pope Benedict XVI in 2008, Park East Synagogue, NY, President, Appeal of Conscience Foundation
- Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, NY
- Rabbi Lawrence S. Zierler, Jewish Center of Teaneck

- Mr. Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
- Mr. David A. Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC)
- Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC)
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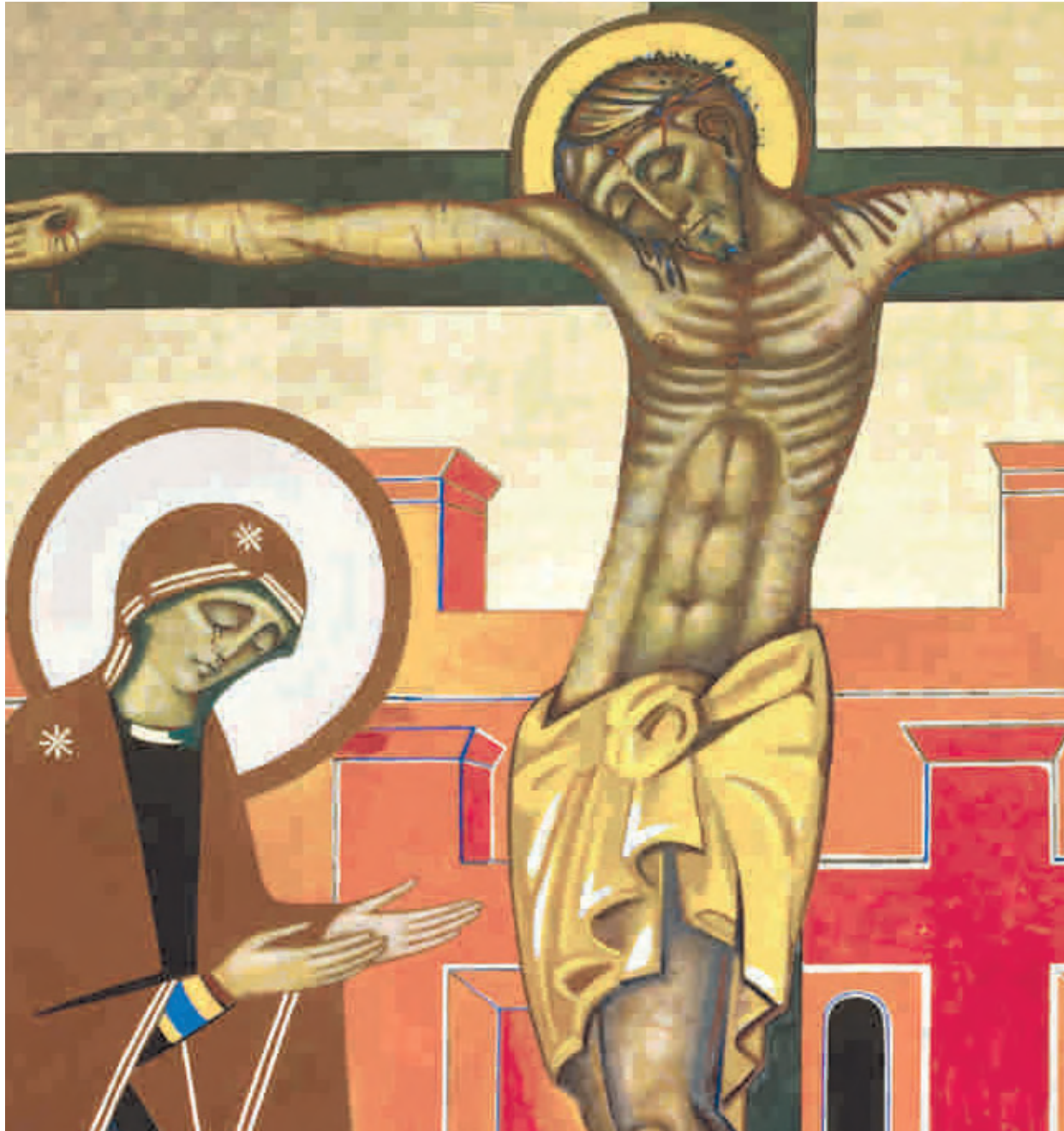


# A SYMPHONIC HOMAGE AND PRAYER

KIKO ARGÜELLO, COMPOSER | PAU JORQUERA, CONDUCTOR

BOSTON SYMPHONY HALL  
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012 - 2 PM





# THE SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENTS

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Dear brothers and sisters: how could I presume to compose music? Is it because of my pride? Or my vanity? Be that as it may, an elderly priest once told me: "Never avoid doing good for fear of vanity, because that comes from the devil".

"To do good..." Is it good to try to compose music? I present to you a small musical composition, which I would like to be celebratory as well as catechetical, I would say, on the suffering of the innocents, on the suffering of the Virgin. Can music perhaps say something more profound on such a significant theme...?

The suffering of the innocents... the philosopher Sartre said: "Woe to the man whom the finger of God crushes against the wall", and Nietzsche: "If God exists and does not help those who suffer, he is a monster, and if he cannot help them, he is not God, he does not exist".

To be crushed against the wall. Men lying in the street, dying of cold. Children abandoned and housed in horrific orphanages, where they suffer violence and are abused. That woman, whom I knew in that neighborhood, suffering from Parkinson's disease, abandoned by her husband, whose mentally-ill son beat her with a stick, and was begging for alms. I was overwhelmed before Jesus dead on a cross, present there, in her and in so many others and others...

What a mystery the suffering of so many innocents who bear the sin of others, incest, a violence unheard of, that line of naked women and children going towards the gas chamber, and that deep pain of one of the guards who was heard inside his heart a voice: get in line with them and go with them to die; and he did not know where that voice was coming from...

Many say that after the horror of Auschwitz it is no longer possible to believe in God. No! It is not true! God became man to carry upon Himself the suffering of all those innocent ones. He is the total innocent, the lamb led to the slaughter without opening his mouth, He who carries the sins of all.

In this small work, the Virgin Mary is portrayed submitted to the scandal of the suffering of the innocents in her own flesh, in the flesh of her own Son. "Oh, what pain!" a voice sings as a sword pierces her soul.

With these musical strokes we would like to celebrate together, how much an angel sustained the Virgin, just as another angel helped Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane to drink of the chalice prepared for sinners. We would like to contemplate and sustain the Virgin who accepts that sword which, according to the prophet Ezekiel, God has prepared for the sins of his people, and which now pierces through the soul of this poor woman: Mary! Mary! Mother of God! Holy Theotokos. Courage! You are the Mother of that God who makes himself sin for us and offers himself for the salvation of all. Mother of God and our Mother. Let us all sing.

*Kiko Argüello*