1 As we have gathered here together to thank God for the Nobel Peace Prize, I think it will be beautiful that we pray the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi which always surprises me very much. We pray this prayer every day after Holy Communion, because it is very fitting for each one of us. And I always wonder that 400-500 years ago as St. Francis of Assisi composed this prayer, that they had the same difficulties that we have today as we compose this prayer that fits very nicely for us also. I think some of you already have done—so we will pray together.

2 Let us thank God for the opportunity that we all have together today, for this gift of peace that reminds us that we have been created to live that peace, and Jesus became man to bring that good news to the poor. He, being God, became man in all things like us except sin, and he proclaimed very clearly that he had come to give the good news.

3 The news was peace to all of good will and this is something that we all want --- the peace of heart. And God loved the world so much that He gave his Son—it was a giving; it is as much as if to say it hurt God to give, because He loved the world so much that He gave his Son, and He gave Him to Virgin Mary, and what did she do with Him?

4 As soon as He came in her life, immediately she went in haste to give the good news, and she came into the house of her cousin. The child -- the unborn child—the child in the womb of Elizabeth, lit with joy. He was that little unborn child, was the first messenger of peace. He recognized the Prince of Peace; he recognized that Christ has come to bring the good news for you and for me. And as if that was not enough—it was not enough to become a man—He died on the cross to show that greater love, and he died for you and me and for that leper and for that man dying of hunger and that naked person lying in the street not only of Calcutta, but of Africa, and New York, and London, and Oslo— and insisted that we love one another as He loves each one of us. And we read in the Gospel very clearly: love as I have loved you, as I love you; as the Father has loved Me, I love you. And the harder the Father loved Him, He gave Him to us, and how much we love one another, we too must give each other until it hurts.

5 It is not enough for us to say, “I love God, but I do not love my neighbor.” St. John says you are a liar if you say you love God and you don’t love your neighbor. How can you love God Whom you do not see, if you don’t love your neighbor whom you see, whom you touch, with whom you live? And this is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt.

6 It hurt Jesus to love us. It hurt Him. And to make sure we remember his great love, he made himself Bread of Life to satisfy our hunger for His love. Our hunger for God, because we have been created for that love. We have been created in His image. We have been created to love and be loved, and then He has become man to make it possible for us to love as He loved us. He makes himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one,
15 I will give you something terrifying. We are fighting abortion by adoption. We have saved thousands of lives. We have sent words to all the clinics, to the hospitals, police stations, “Please don’t destroy the child, we will take the child.” So every hour of the day and night it is always somebody—we have quite a number of uniforms. We will see them in the street. And I ask you, we will take the child from you, and we will get a home for the child. And we have a tremendous demand for families who have no children, that is a blessing of God for us. And, also, we are doing another thing which is very beautiful. We are teaching our beggars, our leprosy patients, our slum dwellers, our people of the streets. Natural Family Planning.

16 And in Calcutta alone—it is all in Calcutta—we have had 61,273 babies less from the families who would have had, but because they practice this natural way of abstaining, of self control, out of love for each other. We teach them the temperature meter (method) which is very beautiful, very simple. And our poor people understand. And you know what they have told me? Our family is healthy, our family is united, and we can have a baby whenever we want. So clear—those people in the street, those beggars—and I think that if our people can do like that how much more you and all the others who can know the ways and means without destroying the life that God has created in us.

17 The poor people are very great people. They can teach us so many beautiful things. The other day one of them came to thank, and said, “You people who have evolved chastity, you are the best people to teach us Family Planning. Because it is nothing more than self-control out of love for each other.” And I think they said a beautiful sentence. And these people who may have nothing to eat, maybe they have not got a home where to live, but they are great people.

18 The poor are very wonderful people. One evening we went out and we picked up four people from the street. And one of them was in a most terrible condition. And I told the sisters, “You take care of the other three; I take care of this one that looked worse.” So I did for her all my love can do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hand, as she said one word only, “Thank you”—and she died.

19 I could not help but examine my conscience before her. And I asked, “What would you say if I was in her place?” And my answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said I am hungry, that I am dying, I am cold, I am in pain or something. But she gave me much more—she gave me her grateful love. And she died with a smile on her face—as that man whom we picked up from the drain, half eaten by worms, and we brought him to the home. “I have lived like an animal in the street, but I am going to die like an angel, loved and cared for.” And it was wonderful to see the greatness of that man who could speak like that, who could die like that without blaming anybody else. Without comparing anything. Like an angel—this is the greatness of our people.

20 And that is why we believe what Jesus has said, “I was hungry, I was naked, I was homeless; I was unwanted, unloved, uncared for—and, you did it to Me.”

21 I believe that we are not real social workers. We may be doing social work in the eyes of the people. But we are really contemptibles in the heart of the world. For we are touching the body of Christ 24 hours. We have 24 hours in this presence, and so you and I. You, too, try to bring that presence of God in your family, for the family that prays together stays together. And I think that we in our family, we don’t need bombs and guns, to destroy to bring peace—just get together, love one another, bring that peace, that joy, that strength of presence of each other in the home to overthrow the gangster and the killer outside the world. There is so much suffering, so much hatred, so much misery, and we with our prayer, with our sacrifice are beginning at home. Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the action that we do. It is to God Almighty—how much we do does not matter, because he is infinite, but how much love we put in that action. How much we do to him in the person that we are serving.

22 Some time ago in Calcutta we had great difficulty in getting sugar. And I don’t know how the word got around to the children, and a little boy of four years old, a Hindu boy, went home and told his parents, “I will not eat sugar for three days. I will give my sugar to Mother Teresa for her children. After three days his father and mother brought him to our house. I had never met them before, and this little one could scarcely pronounce my name. But he knew exactly what he had come to do. He knew that he wanted to share his love.

23 And his is why I have received such a lot of love from you all.

24 From the time that I have come here I have simply been surrounded with love, and with real, real understanding love. It could feel as if everyone in India, everyone in Africa is somebody very special to you. And I felt quite at home, I was telling sister today. I feel in the (Oslo) conven with the sisters as if I am in Calcutta with my own sisters. So completely at home here, right here.

25 And so here I am talking with you. I want you to find the poor here, right in your home first. And begin love there. Be that good news to your own people. And find out about your next-door neighbor. Do you know who they are?

26 I had the most extraordinary experience with a Hindu family who had eight children. A gentleman came to our house and said, “Mother Teresa, there is a family with eight children. They have not eaten for so long. Do something.” So I took some rice and went there immediately. And I saw the children—their eyes shining with hunger. I don’t know if you have ever seen hunger. But I have seen it very often. And she took the rice, she divided the rice, and she went out. When she came back I asked her, “Where did you go? What did you do?” And she gave me a very simple answer, “They are hungry also.” What struck me most was that she knew—and who are “They”? A Muslim family—and she knew. I didn’t bring more rice that evening because I wanted them to enjoy the sharing.

27 But there were those children, radiating joy, sharing the joy of mother because she had the love to give. And you see this is where love begins, at home. And I want you—and I am very grateful for what I have received (Nobel funds). It has been a tremendous experience and I go back to India—I will be back by next week, the 15th, I hope and I will be able to bring your love.

28 And I know well that you have not given from your abundance, but you have given until it has hurt you. Today the (local) little children, they gave—I was so surprised—there is so much joy for the children that are hungry. That the children life