**ADDRESS BY HIS EMINENCE**

**CARDINAL THUONG TAM THANH,**

**CHAIRMAN OF CAO DAI SACERDOTAL COUNCIL OF TAY NINH HOLY SEE, VIETNAM**

**AT THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:**

**“UNIVERSAL LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD:**

**A CHALLENGE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM”**

**At the Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association,**

**Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.**

**May 18 – 21, 2016**

Dear Professor Doctor Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman ofThe Universal Love and Brotherhood Association -Thailand,

Dear Prof. Dr. Phichai Tovivich, Secretary General of The Universal Love and Brotherhood Association - Thailand, Chairman of the Organizing Committee,

Dear Speakers, Leaders of distinguished organizations and religions, scholars, and distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I, Cardinal Thuong Tam Thanh (Nguyen Thanh Tam), Chairman of the Cao Dai Sacerdotal Council of Tay Ninh Holy See in Vietnam and our fellow Dignitaries of the Sacerdotal Council are so honored to take part in this first International Conference on “Universal Love and Brotherhood: A Challenge Of The New Millennium” at the Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association, following the invitation of Prof. Dr. Phichai Tovivich ofThe Universal Love and Brotherhood Association-Thailand.

First of all, on behalf of the Sacerdotal Council of Cao Dai Tay Ninh Holy See, Vietnam (hereinafter called Cao Dai Religion) and me personally, I would like to extend our warmest, greatest and most respectful greetings to Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, to the dignitaries of fellow religions and organisations, and to all distinguished guests.

I sincerely wish this First International Conference will be enormously successful.

This is the first time our Sacerdotal Council of Cao Dai Tay Ninh Holy See has officially paid a visit to Bangkok, the capital city of beautiful Thailand where the architecture of ancient temples is in harmony with the surrounding nature and where the people are so warm and welcoming.

We are very pleased to learn that the motto set by The Universal Love and Brotherhood Association-Thailand “*Travelling everywhere to sow seeds of peace and develop love amongst religions*” has developed remarkably amongst the beloved people in Thailand where the Buddhist philosophy on love is deeply rooted in the daily lives of the Thai people. This philosophy is identical to the doctrine of Cao Dai Religion which emphasizes “*Love and Justice, respect God the Father – Creator of all living beings who are believed to be brothers and sisters living in good harmony and being equal before HIM*.”

The Caodaist doctrine is a fusion of the past true doctrines with present-day moral standards. This fusion produces a newer doctrine, a universal philosophy (based on such factors as love, sincerity, peace and justice). All of these elements aim to create an ethical background which is proportional to the religious level and level of general development shared by human beings.

The Cao Dai religion considers affection as its basis, benevolence and righteousness as its motto, serving human beings as its action, and saving souls as its target. We all strive for peace and social justice in order to serve our people, our country, humanity, and all living beings.

The Cao Dai Religion’s motto is “Humanity, sincerity, peace and justice.” The two parallel sentences on both sides of the main entrance to the Cao Dai Holy See display this motto:

*CAO THƯỢNG CHÍ TÔN, ĐẠI ĐẠO HÒA BÌNH DÂN CHỦ MỤC,*

*ĐÀI TIỀN SÙNG BÁI, TAM KỲ CỘNG HƯỞNG TỰ DO QUYỀN*

*(Literally, this means “From the Supreme Palace, God the Father founded a universal religion which aims at bringing peace and democracy. In worshipping the Supreme Being, the Third Period of Amnesty brings to humanity endless freedom”).*

The Cao Dai Religion finds harmony with other religions, believing that all religions on Earth, though different in name, were all established by the Supreme Being. Thereby in the Cao Dai Religion, all human beings are treated like brothers and sisters.

The Cao Dai Religion highly values the quality of diligence. All disciples from ordinary followers to high-ranking dignitaries must be hard-working in order to ensure that everybody is well-fed, that morality is accumulated, and that society progresses. Through these actions, the Cao Dai Religion hopes to contribute its part to World Peace.

The Universal Love and Brotherhood Association (ULBA), Oomoto, and the Cao Dai religion share the same purpose of encouraging good deeds and universal salvation which is considered to be the best and most peaceful solution for creating a long-lasting peace in this world and for promoting true love and great morality of human beings.

Despite the huge geographic distance, language difference between them and their being inaugurated in different time periods, Oomoto and the Cao Dai religion were both established

from spiritist messages which came from God. Both religions share a long-established relationship and have paid official visits to each other where they left thoughtful impressions on one another. The most recent visit by Oomoto led by Her Highness Spiritual Leader Kurenai Deguchi to Cao Dai Tay Ninh Holy See in Vietnam was in 2015 on the occasion of the “90th Great Festival commemorating The Holy Mother Goddess.” This meeting served to tighten the relationship between Oomoto and the Cao Dai religion.

Sharing the same motto “*Travelling everywhere to sow seeds of peace and develop love amongst religions”* with The Universal Love and Brotherhood Association (ULBA), the Cao Dai religion would like this motto to be nurtured and developed further to make a better world for human beings.

In the solemn atmosphere of this conference, I sincerely pray for the Supreme Being to bless all living beings on Earth so that they can enjoy peace and that all things will develop prosperously. I sincerely wish the Universal Love And Brotherhood Association (ULBA), Oomoto, and the Cao Dai religion unite and promote universal love, sincerity, and harmony to serve humanity together on this moral and ethical path towards eternal evolution. Only when “all of us work together to serve humanity and all human beings, then the noble goal of ULBA can be fully achieved.”

I wish good health and happiness to Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, and that ULBA Thailand progresses and prospers for ever.

I also wish Distinguished representatives of fellow organisations, Religious leaders, Speakers and all participants of this Conference good health and success in all aspects.

I wish prosperity and wealth upon Thailand, its people having a comfortable life, everyone will be happy and will make progress endlessly.

Thank you very much.

Bangkok, May 19th, 2016.

Cardinal Thuong Tam Thanh

(Nguyen Thanh Tam)

Chairman of Cao Dai Sacerdotal Council