

The Lakeside



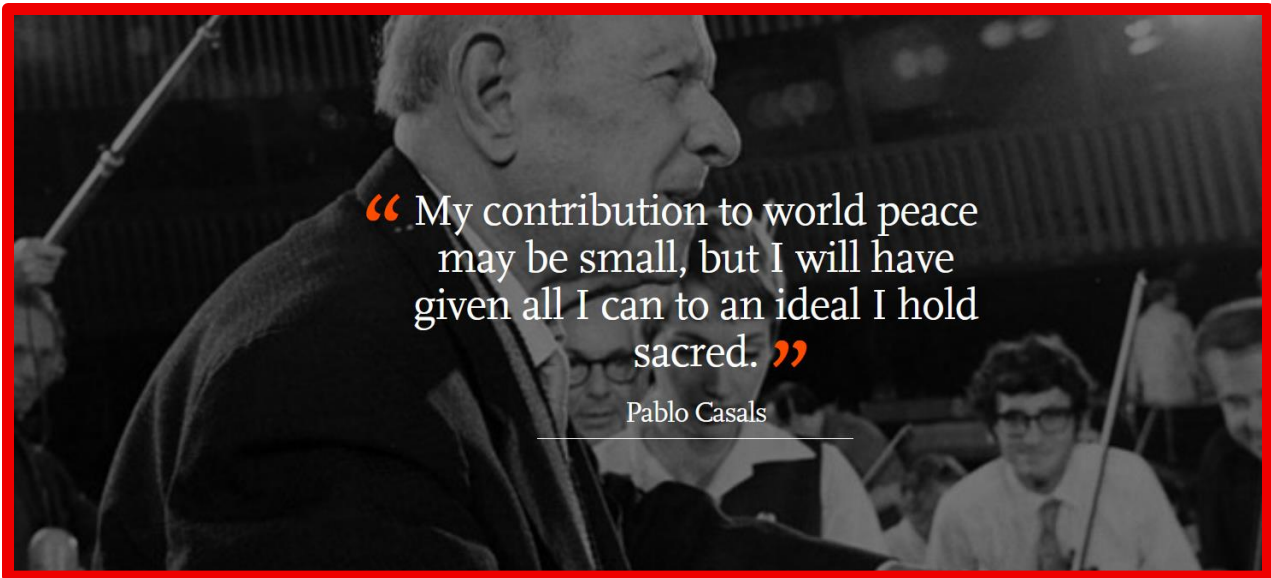
Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday February 9, 2026 -Mark 12: 30-31

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. 'There is no commandment greater than these.'"

Read Mark 12 for meditation and inspiration.



“ My contribution to world peace may be small, but I will have given all I can to an ideal I hold sacred. ”

Pablo Casals

“THE MANGER” by PABLO CASALS

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Our Lord and Master, Jesus, wants us to learn to live the life of love, total and unconditional love as a reflection of God’s love for us. Now that is a tall order. We can find almost unconquerable love for our spouse and life partner; we can secure all-encompassing, unconditional, and selfless affection for our children; we can have affectionate love for our extended family; we can love our neighbor (at least most of our neighbors); even extend a work related love to our co-workers, and a kind of theoretical love for all humanity. Jesus might be pretty happy with all of that, but Jesus also says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45). Now that is a tall order and what seems like an order that is unreachable. Jesus does not make it conditional but simply commands “LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!”

The late master cellist, Pablo Casals, wrote an Oratorio based on the Nativity of Christ. He called it, simply, "The Manger." When he was eighty-five, he embarked on a personal peace crusade. He said, "I decided to take the Oratorio anywhere in the world that I could and conduct it as a personal message of international understanding and peace. Since the message of this work was peace and the brotherhood of man, what better vehicle had I for acting at this urgent hour?" True to his word, and despite his advanced years, he gave performances of "The Manger" in North and South America, in England, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Israel, and a dozen other lands, "Everywhere," he said, "people have demonstrated the same hunger for peace. Every performance has reaffirmed my conviction that it is not the

peoples of the world but artificial barriers imposed by their governments that hold them apart."

In a message to a 1967 International Peace Conference in Geneva, he said, "We live in an Age in which men have accomplished magnificent things and made miraculous advances, an Age in which man embarks upon the exploration of the stars. Yet, on our own planet, we continue to act as barbarians. Like barbarians, we fear our neighbors on this earth; we arm against them, and they arm against us. The time has come when this must be halted if man is to survive and live as God announces us to be "more that conquerors" in living the life of faith, hope and love. Let us rededicate our lives to be the true, "Sons and Daughters of our Heavenly Father."

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger