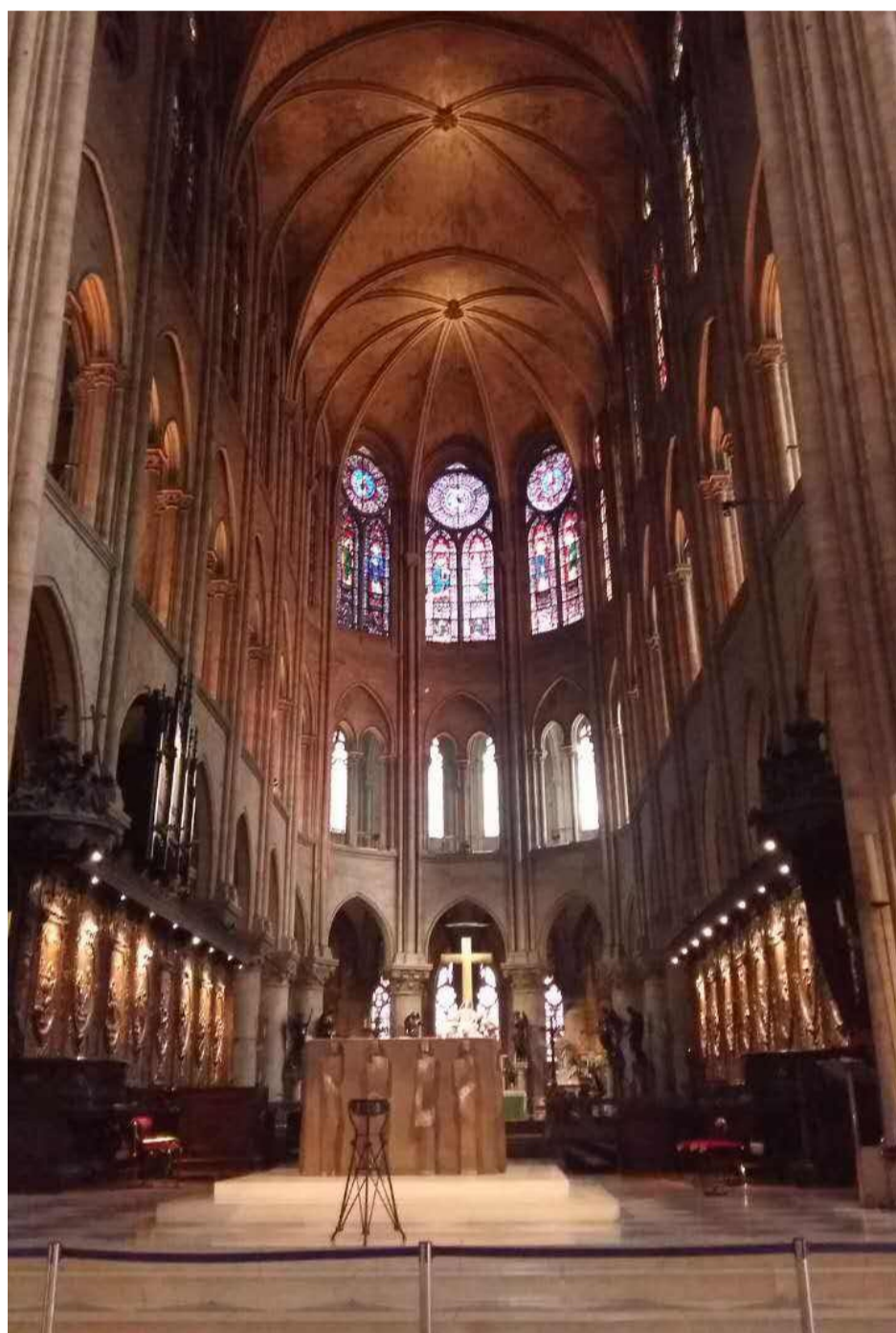


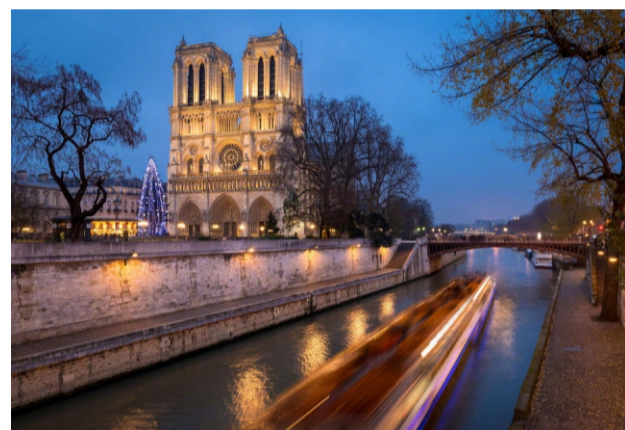
Prayers Around the World for Notre Dame Cathedral



A massive fire engulfed the upper reaches of Paris' soaring Notre Dame Cathedral as it was undergoing renovations Monday, threatening one of the greatest architectural treasures of the Western world. The world reacted with shock, horror and prayers to the massive fire, united in grief and in solidarity with the people of France. Trump offers unsolicited advice on fighting Notre Dame fire. US President Donald Trump assessed the response from 4,000 miles away and offered unsolicited advice for firefighters trying to save Paris' Notre Dame cathedral. "Perhaps flying water tankers could be used to put it out," Trump tweeted from Air Force One, minutes before landing in Minnesota for a Tax Day speech. "Must act quickly!" Trump's armchair observations were striking, even for a president who seems to offer an opinion about just about everything.

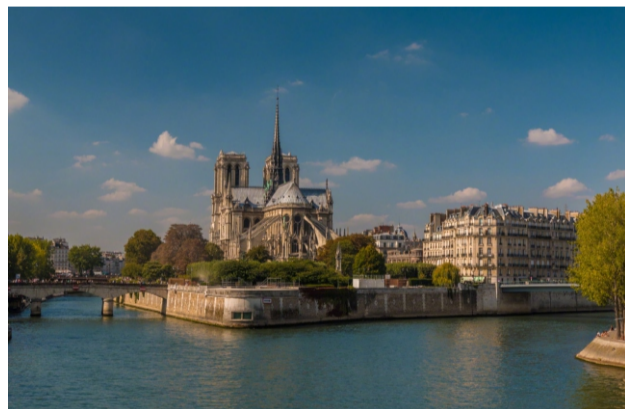
Portuguese leaders send condolences to French president.

Portuguese President Rebelo de Sousa and Prime Minister Antonio Costa on Monday respectively sent their heartfelt condolences to French President Emmanuel Macron. The fire engulfed the Notre Dame, hurt the heart and soul of the people, because the cathedral was a major symbol of the human imagination, said the president in a message, published in the portal of the Presidency of the Republic on the Internet. "It is a tragedy for the French people, for the Europeans and even for all the world," he added.



Merkel says saddened by Notre Dame cathedral fire

Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday has said she was deeply saddened by the Notre Dame cathedral fire in Paris. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert tweeted on behalf of Merkel: "It hurts to see these horrible pictures of the burning Notre Dame. Notre Dame is a symbol of France and of our European culture. Our thoughts are with French friends."



UN chief "horrified" as Notre Dame burns.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed his "horror" at the images of the fire, shown live around the world. "Horrified by the pictures coming from Paris with the fire engulfing Notre Dame Cathedral-- a unique example of world heritage that has stood tall since the 14th century. My thoughts are with the people and government of France," the UN chief said on Twitter.

(From China Daily)

If you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars.

---Tagore