



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #2



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

- ✚ Recognize and respect the dignity of each person; live and teach love and compassion for all.
- ✚ Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn

Prayer of St. Francis by Sebastian Temple or *Peace is Flowing Like a River* by Carey Landry

Prayer: Life and Dignity of the Human Person (USCCB copyright 2020)

God of all life,

Help us to appreciate the great gift that is human life
formed in your image, a reflection of your holiness.

Help us to recognize you
in all whom you have created:
children not yet born,
families affected by poverty and war,
people of different abilities,
people from other lands, and
all who are victims of hatred and racism.

Help us to bear witness to the dignity of all whom
you have created,
regardless of stage of life,
or wealth,
or ability,
or color, or creed,
for every person is fully equal in your loving eyes.

Share with us your holy knowledge
that we are all your children,
each bestowed with inherent dignity.

May your justice reign forever!

Amen

Readings

Luke 6:27-38, Luke 10:25-37 (Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share

1. What in these readings challenges me?
2. Who is "the enemy" in my life whom I am being called not to judge nor condemn but to love?
How will I express my love?
3. To whom am I being called to be a good Samaritan and how will I fulfill this call?

Prayer response: Psalm 101 (adaption by Nan Merrill)

I sing of loyalty and of justice;
to You, O Beloved, I sing.
I give heed to the Way
that leads to peace.
Come, O Blessed One,
make your home in my heart.

May I walk with integrity
where'er I go,
May I see you in all creation!

May I be a mirror of your love
to all that I meet;
May I reflect the freedom of your truth,

and live as a beneficial presence in the world.

Forgive me, O Merciful One,
if I turn from those in need.
Humble me if I become arrogant and greedy.
Embrace me with your Presence.

I accompany those who love You,
that I may grow in wisdom;
I enter into the Silence, into the Eternal Light,
and listen for your Word.

For, no one who oppresses another,
who keeps company with injustice,
will dwell in the house of Love.

And, no one who prefers darkness
will live in the glory of Light.

In the morning I offer myself to you in prayer,

by night I surrender to You in trust;
O, that I might walk in the Light with a grateful heart,
and radiate peace to the world!

Sing: *We Are Called* (refrain) by David Haas

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,

we are called to serve one another;
to walk humbly with God.

Prayer: *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: A Prayer for Civility* (inspired by Bishop Zukik)
(alternate lines)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.
Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and invite others to do the same.
Show me how to build bridges and not walls
And see first what unites us, rather than how we diverge.
Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood.
Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion.
May I be clear in sharing my own position and respectful and civil in describing those of others.
Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.
May I invite all to charity and love.

Pray Together: Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.
Make me an instrument of your peace. Amen.

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Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to “recognize and respect the dignity of each person; live and teach love and compassion for all.” Then notify Tim in the CP Shalom Office (tdewane@ssndcp.org) so he can work with you on discerning the best way to share your artistic expression of peace with the province.

Practice

1) Write a letter of appreciation to someone who models well this commitment. 2) In anticipation of the 2020 election, the U.S. Catholic Bishops have launched *Civilize It*, an initiative that invites us to model civility, love for neighbor, and respectful dialogue. *Civilize It* is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward. Watch this [video explainer](#), read the Bishop’s [letter of invitation](#), and then explore and make use of [these resources](#). Take [the pledge](#) to approach political dialogue (and all conversations) with civility and compassion.



- Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee