



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #4



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

- ✚ Use education, reflection, prayer and other actions to foster a culture of peace and to eliminate violence in our individual lives, our communities, society, and in our relationship with all of creation.
- ✚ Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (refrain)

Readings

Romans 15:4-7

Isaiah 42: 5-7

John 15: 9-12

(Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share

1. Express gratitude for the ways you have been able to respond to these words of Scripture.
2. To what more are you being called to be and do? (e.g. education, reflection, prayer, other actions)

Prayer Response: Psalm 85: Adaptation by Nan Merrill

O Beloved, how gracious You are to your people; You restore their souls time and time again.

You forgive their iniquity when they wander far from you; You give them new Life.

Yes, You bless them and raise up new hope; You awaken their hearts to love.

Restore us again, O Spirit of Truth; burn us with the refining Fire of Love!

We cannot live separated from You; cast out the demons of fear, doubt, and illusion.

Revive us again, we pray, that your people may rejoice in You!

Have compassion on your people, O Holy One, and grant us your salvation.

Listen, O people, in the silent chapel of your heart; and the Beloved will speak of peace to you, to the hidden saints, to all who turn their hearts to Love.

Surely new life is at hand for those who reverence Love; O, that harmony might dwell among the nations.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace one another.

Wisdom will spring up from the ground and truth will look down from the sky.

Yes, the Eternal Giver will grant what is good, and the lands will yield abundantly.

Mercy and compassion are Love's way, and will guide our footsteps upon the path of peace.

Sing: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (refrain)

Reading: Excerpt from Pope Francis' Message – 53rd World Day of Peace (*Laudato Si'*)

“Faced with the consequences of our hostility towards others, our lack of respect for our common home or our abusive exploitation of natural resources – seen only as a source of immediate profit, regardless of local communities, the common good and nature itself – we are in need of an ecological conversion.” We need to change the way we think and see things, and to become more open to encountering others and accepting the gift of creation which reflects the beauty and wisdom of its Creator”

Prayer: A Peacemaker's Prayer by Lillia Langreck, SSND (See back of [GNVJP Corporate Stance](#))

Sing: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (refrain)

Closing ritual

Gather around a Peace Pole, Earth Flag, or other symbol of peace and sing (or speak) the following text (from the *Peacemakers Planetary Anthem* by Ann M. Wolf) to the melody of the *Stars Spangled Banner*...

Oh say, can you see by the one light in all, A new world to embrace at the call of all nations, Where our children can play in a world without war, Where we stand hand in hand in the grace of creation; Where the rivers run clean through the forests pristine, Where the cities stand tall in the clear skies of freedom; O say, do our hearts swell with love and joy forever, On the planet of our birth blessed with peace on earth.

End the song by sharing a sign of peace with each other.

Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to “use education, reflection, prayer and other actions to foster a culture of peace and to eliminate violence in our individual lives, our communities, society, and in our relationship with all of creation.” 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) Invite someone/s to join you for a conversation about ways to foster a culture of peace and eliminate violence in your life, community engagements, and relationship with all of creation.
- 2) Choose one current events issue of violence and commit to a week of focused prayer and/or other actions.



➤ *Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee*