



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #5



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

- ✚ Advocate for the use of diplomacy and dialogue to abolish war and nuclear weapons.
- ✚ Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
God's children all are we,
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony
Let peace begin with me

Let this be the moment now;
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on Earth
and let it begin with me.

Readings

Isaiah 2:3-4

Matthew 26: 52

Laudato Si' #57

(Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share

1. How do these readings inspire and challenge me in light of the violence and conflict in our world?
2. What would it look like to live in a world where conflict and war are addressed without violence and war?

Prayer Response: Psalm 91: by Nan Merrill

Those who dwell in the shelter of Infinite Light,
who abide in the wings of Infinite Love,
Will raise their voices in praise:
"My refuge and my strength; In you alone will I trust."
For you deliver me from the webs of fear,
from all that separates and divides;
You protect me as an eagle shields its young,
Your faithfulness is sure, like an arrow set upon the
mark.
I will not fear the shadows of the night,
nor the confusion that comes by day,

Nor the dreams that awaken me from sleep,
nor the daily changes that life brings.

"Because you cleave to Me in love, I will deliver you;
I will protect you, who call upon my Name.
When you call to Me, I will answer you;
I will be with you in times of trouble,
I will rescue you and reverence your life.
All through the years, will I dwell in your heart,
As Loving Companion Presence, forever."

Reading: Excerpt from Pope Francis' World Day of Prayer for Peace, Assisi, Sept. 20, 2016

"We have heard the voice of the poor, of children and the younger generations, of women and so many brothers and sisters who are suffering due to war. With them let us say with conviction: No to war! May the anguished cry of the many innocents not go unheeded. Let us urge leaders of nations to defuse the causes of war: the lust for power and money, the greed of arms' dealers, personal interests and vendettas

for past wrongs. We need a greater commitment to eradicating the underlying causes of conflicts: poverty, injustice and inequality, the exploitation of and contempt for human life."

Reading: Statement from the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace committee on Nuclear Disarmament, Feb. 14, 2020:

(T)he international community recognized the need to move away from the threat of mutual destruction and toward genuine and universal disarmament, as reflected in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). (1968)

Pope Francis has used his visit to Japan (November 2019) to remind the faithful and all actors, states or non-states, of the moral obligation to recommit to the work of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and the threat they pose....

The Committee on International Justice and Peace is grateful to the Holy Father for this renewed effort to bring about a world of peace and justice that is not based on fear or the threat of nuclear annihilation but justice and solidarity.

Prayer Response:

Good and gracious God, you created all of us in your image and likeness. Give us the grace to see all humanity as one. Help us understand that we cherish and honor you when we cherish and honor each other. Help us put aside artificial and shallow differences that create blocks to our understanding and loving each other. Help us to see the good and decent in the other. We welcome the peace that comes when we live as you want us to live; as brothers and sisters who love one another as you love us. Amen. (Vincella Lake, SSND)

Closing Hymn: Let There Be Peace on Earth

Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to "advocate for the use of diplomacy and dialogue to abolish war and nuclear weapons." 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) Share and discuss Pax Christi International's video *The Real Cost of Nuclear Weapons* <https://youtu.be/Njd4Ov6Xsp4> with family, friends, and community members.
- 2) Support the elimination of nuclear weapons by signing the Hibakusha appeal <https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/hibakusha-appeal>
- 3) Sign the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative appeal to Pope Francis to author an encyclical on nonviolence <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/2020/06/23/pope-francis-appeal/>
- 4) Commit to the Declaration for Peace (World Beyond War) <https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/>



➤ Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee