Dear Peacemaker,

This resource offers suggestions for hosting a Peace Fair at your school or parish in honor of Pax Christi USA’s 50th anniversary year. Included are a sampling of activities/projects that can be used in a classroom, at a meeting, at a Pax Christi celebration or special event.

You will find many ideas for community celebrations of peacemaking and peacebuilding in this document. We invite you to use them as an individual, family project, in a classroom or as part of a Peace Fair. A Peace Fair can be one day or a week of activities in which a group of people, young and old, come together to celebrate and learn about peace. Many of the activities presented in this resource are for children and can be adapted for teenagers and young adults.

Each idea is developed enough that the coordinator does not have to research or spend time looking up each activity.

Please feel free to make a booklet from these pages to use not only on the 50th anniversary of Pax Christi USA but anytime you have the opportunity.

You can decide to present these activities during a national or international holiday in which peace is the focus. For instance:

- January 1: World Day of Peace
- January 30-April 1: Season of Nonviolence
- September 21: UN International Day of Peace
- September 21-October 2: Campaign Nonviolence Days of Action (*Pace e Bene*)
- September 21-October 2: Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (*Catholic Nonviolence Initiative*)
- October 2: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

We hope that this resource is a helpful tool and inspiration to spread the *Peace of Christ, Pax Christi*, into the next 50 years!

In Pax Christi,

Madeline Labriola, Convener, and Mary Hanna, Ambassador of Peace
The 50th Anniversary Working Group
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ACTIVITY #1
Stories for Children

Read from children’s books on peace and nonviolence. Some suggestions:

**The Season Of Nonviolence:** January 30 marked the beginning of the *Season of Nonviolence*, a 64-day international campaign that begins on the anniversary of the death of **Mohandas Gandhi** and ends on April 4, the anniversary of the death of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** The website for the **Association for Global New Thought** has dozens of resources for honoring this time in peace. We’d like to include these children’s books that you can share with the young ones in your life to help them learn compassionate behavior.

We have included short descriptions of each recommended book:

**I am Gandhi** by Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos
This biography was written for early elementary readers. It’s part of a series about heroes who changed the world. Meltzer has a long list of credits to his name and Eliopoulos worked at Marvel Comics. His illustrations help to tell the story to even the youngest readers. Children will learn to stand up to injustice through peaceful protests.

**How To Heal a Broken Wing** by Bob Graham
Preschoolers will delight at this book that speaks to “even the least of these.” When a pigeon is injured in the big city, a young boy sees that the bird is hurt. He takes the bird home and saves it so it can return to the sky. Graham has a way of telling stories to children about compassion and empathy.

**Peas on Earth** by Todd H. Doodler
Written for very young children, newborns to age 3, this picture book portrays simple concepts of peace and harmony through charming artwork and references to “peas.” It’s a perfect book for little ones who are just beginning to find enjoyment in books. They’ll enjoy the pop-up at the end.

**The Name Jar** by Yangsook Choi
Coming to a new school can be daunting when your name isn’t easy to pronounce. When a Korean girl moves to the United States, she is worried that no one will be able to say her name. She tries out some American names, but eventually chooses her Korean name. Elementary readers will learn empathy for others who are going through the immigration process and are outsiders.

It’s important for everyone to learn about nonviolence, but it’s particularly important for young children who may need to be taught compassion, empathy, and kindness. In honor of the Season of Nonviolence, check out some of these amazing books and share them with the young people in your life.
Protests and nonviolent resistance are an integral part of human culture. On any given day, there are protests happening around the world. Protests have helped bring about civil and workers’ rights, environmental protection measures, and better treatment of nonhuman animals. With so many protests in the news (and in the streets for many communities), it’s important that children be educated in age-appropriate ways about the importance and impact of effective nonviolent protest and resistance. Here are 11 picture books, with historical and contemporary examples, to help start those conversations.

1. **Aani and the Tree Huggers** by Jeannine Atkins  
   Aani and her community rely on the trees in their forest for their survival. When men come and start cutting down the trees, Aani takes drastic action to save the trees…and her village.

2. **Seeds of Freedom** by Hester Bass  
   2015. Grades 1-5.  
   In the 1960s, the African-American community in Huntsville, Alabama, used creative nonviolent tactics as “seeds of freedom” to protest segregation and promote integration and equality.

3. **Daddy, There’s a Noise Outside** by Kenneth Braswell  
   When two young children are awakened by noises in the night, they spend the next morning talking with their parents about it, which leads to an important conversation about protesting, civil rights, and social action.

4. **¡Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!** by Diana Cohn  
   Carlitos’ mom is a janitor. Every night he sleeps while his mother works. When she tells him one day that she and the other janitors are going on strike because they can’t make enough money to support their families, Carlitos wonders what he can do to help.

5. **We March** by Shane Evans  
   In simple text, members of an African-American family arise and take part in the historic March on Washington in 1963. “We lean on each other as we march to justice, to freedom, to our dreams.”
6. **Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez** by Kathleen Krull  
Cesar was shy as a boy. When his family fell into financial troubles, they ended up as migrant laborers. Cesar’s experiences and observations of inhuman living and working conditions led him to start speaking out. He led a peaceful, 340-mile march to protest conditions for workers and gained positive changes.

7. **Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909** by Michelle Markel  
Clara came to the U.S. with her family, dreaming of a wonderful new life, but she found herself working long hours under unfair and dangerous conditions as a garment worker in New York. She began to encourage her fellow workers to strike and eventually led the “largest walkout of women workers in U.S. history.”

8. **Gandhi: A March to the Sea** by Alice McGinty  
2013. Grades 1-5.  
Simple text and beautiful illustrations share the story of Gandhi’s famous 24-day March to the Sea to protest unjust laws and taxes by claiming salt from the Arabian sea. Gandhi’s “salt march” campaign captured international attention and inspired India’s people to work for independence through nonviolence.

9. **Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down** by Andrea Davis Pinkney  
“Combine black with white / to make sweet justice.” *Sit-In* tells the story of four young men who decided to take action against segregation by staging a peaceful protest at a Woolworth’s lunch counter.

10. **Miss Paul and the President** by Dean Robbins  
Alice Paul, suffragist and women’s rights activist, organized parades, protests, a meeting with the president, and more to try to get women in the U.S. the right to vote.

11. **Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation** by Duncan Tonatiuh  
When Sylvia Mendez and her family move to Westminster, California, and try to enroll in the neighborhood school, Sylvia’s parents are told, “Your children have to go to the Mexican school.” The only reason given? “That is how it is done.” Sylvia, her family, and others in the community must fight to attend their neighborhood school. Will they win?
ACTIVITY #2

ART PROJECT: MAKING PEACE CRANES

Tell the story of Sadako Sasaki and the Hiroshima Peace Cranes

Sadako was two years old and two kilometers away from the atomic bomb when it was dropped on Hiroshima. Most of Sadako’s neighbors died, but Sadako wasn’t injured at all, at least not in any way people could see.

Up until the time Sadako was in the seventh grade (1955) she was a normal, happy girl. However, one day during a school race that she helped her team win, she felt extremely tired and dizzy. This got worse and worse, until one day Sadako became so dizzy that she fell down and was unable to get up. Her schoolmates informed the teacher, and Sadako’s parents took her to the Red Cross Hospital to see what was wrong with her. Sadako found out that she had leukemia. At that time they called leukemia the “A-bomb disease.” There was a low survival rate for “A-bomb disease” and Sadako was very scared.

During Sadako’s stay in the hospital, her best friend, Chizuko, came to visit her. Chizuko brought some origami (folding paper) and told Sadako of a legend. She explained that the crane, a sacred bird in Japan, lives for a hundred years, and if a sick person folds 1,000 paper cranes, then that person would soon get well. After hearing the legend, Sadako decided to fold 1,000 cranes and pray that she would get well again.

Sadako kept folding cranes even though she was in great pain. Even during these times of great pain, she was known by hospital staff and other patients as cheerful and helpful, and always asking for scraps of paper or material to continue folding cranes. Although Sadako knew she would not survive, she folded well over 1,000 cranes and continued to be strong for the sake of her family. In October 1955, with her family standing by her bed, she died.

Sadako’s classmates had lost many of their friends to the A-bomb disease and were saddened by the loss of Sadako. They decided to form a unity club to honor her and stay in touch after they all left school, which grew as students from 3,100 schools and from nine foreign countries gave money to get a statue built to recognise the many children who lost their lives because of the bomb. On May 5, 1958, almost three years after Sadako had died, enough money was collected to build a monument in her honor. It is now known as the Children’s Peace Monument and is located in the center of Hiroshima Peace Park, close to the spot where the atomic bomb was dropped.
The act of folding a crane started by Sadako and her classmates turned into a national, then an international, children’s peace movement. Children from all over the world still send folded paper cranes to be placed beneath Sadako’s statue. In so doing, they fulfill the wish engraved on the base of the statue:

*This is our cry, This is our prayer, Peace in the world.* Read the memories of Sadako’s brother, Masahiro Sasaki, and watch this video to learn to make a peace crane: [Fold your own origami crane.](#)
ACTIVITY #3

NONVIOLENCE ROLE PLAY

This simple action and description could be used as part of a homily, a service or discussion on what active nonviolence seeks to do. (It could also be used with children.)

You will need: a living visual aid of two hands in this position, clear for all to see.

The upright hand is saying to the person involved in the injustice or violence: “Stop what you are doing. I cannot accept this behavior. I refuse to build walls,” making it clear that there will be no cooperation with injustice or violence.

The outstretched hand is saying to the same person: “But we need to talk. I believe we can make better choices. I will not reject you. My heart is open to you as a sister/brother,” making it clear that you are seeking change and an opportunity to work things out together, not revenge or punishment.

Invite people to try this for themselves, thinking of a situation or time when they have had to confront injustice or violence. What words might they have used in each case?

Two Hands of Nonviolence role play:
- Come up with short examples of “What would you do?” scenarios.
- Ask for volunteers to act out how they would use the two hands of nonviolence: “Stop! I want to work it out.”

Example #1 Two students want to use the same game at the same time. They start arguing and pushing each other.

Example #2 Two adults are rushing to get to the check out line first. One rams her cart into another. Tempers flare.

Example #3 A group of high schoolers are teasing someone who is overweight. The victim is about to respond by fighting.

They practice de-escalating the confrontation, coming to the aid of the bullied child, or simply refusing to give positive feedback for the bully’s behavior. Children who practice this skill may then be ready to do the same in an actual bullying situation.
Art project
Have participants draw a picture of two hands: one in an upright “stop” position, the other in reaching out toward the other person.

Look at the picture of a stained glass window in the 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. Welsh artist John Petts made the window after hearing that four young girls had been killed when the church was bombed in a racist attack one Sunday morning in 1963. His black Jesus shows the two hands of nonviolence: one stopping the oppression, the other reaching out in forgiveness and reconciliation. The window was donated to the church by the people of Wales.

Based on metaphor of two hands, Barbara Deming

ACTIVITY #4

PEACE SONG SING-ALONG
(All of these songs and lyrics can be found on YouTube)

For young children:
- Redgrammer.com
  - Teaching Peace
  - Use A Word

Pete Seeger
- It Could be A Wonderful World
- If I had a Hammer
- Where Have all the Flowers Gone
- Turn, Turn, Turn

Liturical music
- Peace is Flowing Like a River
- Peace Prayer of St. Francis
- Let There Be Peace on Earth
- Peace I Leave With You My Friend

Emma’s Revolution
- Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Other music resources:
- Little voices in my head album: I’ve got peace in my fingers. (www.susansalidor.com)
- The Peace Poets
ACTIVITY #5

PLANT A PEACE POLE
www.peacepoleproject.org

A peace pole is a monument that displays the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in the language of the country where it has been placed, and usually three to 13 additional translations. The message often is referred to as a peace prayer.

The idea of peace poles was first thought up by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. The peace pole project today is promoted by The World Peace Prayer Society as well as other groups and individuals. The first peace poles outside Japan were constructed in 1983.[1] Since then, more than 200,000 have been placed around the world in close to 200 countries.[1](Wikipedia)
ACTIVITY #6

PLANT A PEACE TREE
(on Arbor Day, Earth Day, the Equinox or any day)

*When planting a tree, put paper symbols of violence such as guns or knives into the hole and plant the tree on top thus creating a tree of peace.*

**Tree of Peace**
An Oneida story
retold by Charlie Doxtater

The story of the Tree of Peace is true and happened in the early 1800s. The Tree of Peace helped unite one of the most powerful leagues ever, the Iroquois League of Nations. The Iroquois League was made up of six tribes: the Cayuga, the Mohawk, the Oneida, the Onondaga, the Seneca, and the Tuscarora.

The tribes of the Iroquois League at one time were fighting with one another. There were fierce battles, but the people grew tired of the fighting. So they agreed to bury their weapons under a giant white pine tree. They believed that the weapons would be carried away by the underground waters. So they sent the weapons off through the path of the roots. The weapons went in all four directions. After that, the tribes no longer fought. Instead, they formed the Iroquois League.

Today the Iroquois people have peace with one another and together the tribes form a powerful nation.
**ACTIVITY #7**

**ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

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**2021 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES**

The world’s nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of nearly 13,080 nuclear warheads; more than 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,600 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.

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**Ask:**

1. **Which countries have nuclear weapons?**
   Nine countries possess nuclear weapons U.S., Russia, France, China, UK, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea.

2. **How many nuclear weapons are there in the world?**
   Nuclear states admit to owning about 13,000 warheads but the real number could be higher.

3. **How much do nuclear weapons cost?**
   Estimate of $634 billion in total costs for nuclear forces over the 2021-2030 (Congressional Budget Office)

4. **What can we do about them?**
   - Read Archbishop John C. Wester’s pastoral letter *Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace* (available online or from Pax Christi USA)
   - Join [www.ICAN.org](http://www.ICAN.org)
   - Have participants research the [UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](https://www.un.org/disarmament/ treaties/prohibition-nuclear-weapons/).
The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

On July 7, 2017, following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners, an overwhelming majority of the world’s nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It entered into force on January 22, 2021.

Prior to the treaty’s adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive ban, despite their catastrophic, widespread and persistent humanitarian and environmental consequences. The new agreement fills a significant gap in international law.

It prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

A nation that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, so long as it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Similarly, a nation that hosts another nation’s nuclear weapons on its territory may join, so long as it agrees to remove them by a specified deadline.

Nations are obliged to provide assistance to all victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to take measures for the remediation of contaminated environments. The preamble acknowledges the harm suffered as a result of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and on indigenous peoples around the world.

The Treaty was negotiated at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March, June and July 2017, with the participation of more than 135 nations, as well as members of civil society. It opened for signature on September 20, 2017. It is permanent in nature and will be legally binding on those nations that join it.
ACTIVITY #8

LIVING THE BEATITUDES: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS


This activity offers six examples of famous peacemakers. The presenter can use a variety of methods to tell their stories. At a peace fair, a meeting or in a classroom, the presenter can use any of these examples to begin a conversation on how one becomes a peacemaker.

MOTHER TERESA

Read a story about Mother Teresa

A reflection on Mother Teresa from “All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten” by Robert Fulghum, p. 189.

There is a person who has profoundly disturbed my peace of mind for a long time. She doesn’t even know me, but she continually goes around minding my business. We have very little in common, she is an old woman, an Albanian who grew up in Yugoslavia, she is a Roman Catholic nun who lives in poverty in India.

I disagree with her on fundamental issues of population control, the place of women in the world, and in the church, and I am turned off by her naïve statements about “what God wants.” She stands at the center of great contradictory notions and strong forces that shape human destiny. She drives me crazy. I get upset every time I hear her name or read her words or see her face. I don’t even want to talk about her.

In the studio where I work there is a washbasin. Above the washbasin is a mirror. I stop at this place several times a day to tidy up and look at myself in the mirror. Alongside the mirror is a photograph of the troublesome woman. Each time I look in the mirror at myself, I also look at her face. In it I have seen more than I can tell, and from what I see, I understand more than I can say.
The photograph was taken in Oslo, Norway on 10 December in 1980. This is what happened there:

A small, stooped woman in a faded blue sari and worn sandals received an award from the hand of the king. An award funded from the will of the inventor of dynamite in a great glimmering hall of velvet and gold and crystal, surrounded by the noble and famous in formal black and elegant gowns with the rich, the powerful, the brilliant and talented of the world in attendance. There at the center of it all, a little old lady and her faded sari and worn sandals, Mother Teresa of India, servant of the poor, sick, and dying.

To her the Nobel peace prize. No shah or president or king or general or scientist or pope, no banker or merchant or cartel or oil company or ayatollah holds the key to as much power as she has.

None is as rich. For hers is the invincible weapon against the evils of this world: the caring heart. And hers are the everlasting riches of this life: a wealth of the compassionate spirit.

To cut through the smog of helpless cynicism, to take only the tool of unconditional love: to make manifest the capacity for healing humanities wounds; to make the story of the good Samaritan a living reality; and to live a true life as to shine out from the back streets of Calcutta takes courage and faith we cannot admit in ourselves and cannot be without.

I do not speak her language but the eloquence of her life speaks to me. And I am chastised and blessed at the same time. I do not believe that one person can do much in this world. Yet there she stood, in Oslo, affecting the world around. I do not believe in her version of God. But the power of her faith shames me. And I believe in Mother Teresa.

December In Oslo. The message for the world Christmastide is one of peace. Not the peace of a child asleep in a manger of long ago. Nor the piece of a full dinner and a nap by the fire on December 25th. But a tough, vibrant, vital peace that comes from the extraordinary gesture of this one simple woman. A peace of mind that comes from a piece of work.

Years later, at a grand conference of quantum physicists and religious mystics at the Oberoi Towers Hotel in Bombay, I saw that face again standing by the door at the rear of the hall. I sensed a presence beside me and there she was. Alone. Come to speak to the conference as its guest. She looked at me and smiled. I see her face still.

She strode to the rostrum and changed the agenda of the conference from intellectual inquiry to moral activism. She said, in a firm voice to the awed assembly: “We can do no great things; only small things with great love.”
The contradictions of her life and faith are nothing compared to my own. And while I wrestle with frustration about the impotence of the individual, she goes right on changing the world. While I wish for more power and resources, she uses her power and resources to do what she can at the moment.

She upsets me, disturbs me, shames me. What does she have that I do not?

If ever there is peace on earth, goodwill to all, it will be because of women like Mother Teresa. Peace is not something you wish for; it’s something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away!
DOROTHY DAY

Back In Time: Dorothy Day | Faith First, a skit about Dorothy Day

Prologue (spoken by Alex):
Born in 1897, Dorothy Day became a New York reporter at the age of 19. Later, she was among 40 women jailed in Washington, D.C, for demanding the vote for women.

In 1927, Day became an unmarried mother. A short time later, both Day and her daughter, Tamar, were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. Five years later, Day met Peter Maurin. He invited her to publish a newspaper for workers.

On May 1, 1933, Dorothy Day issued the first copy of the Catholic Worker. By year's end, more than 100,000 copies, at a penny apiece, were being sold. Soon, Day opened Catholic Worker houses in New York.

It is now 1957. My name is Alex, and I have come to one Catholic Worker house in the slums of New York City to meet Dorothy Day. Together we are peeling potatoes to provide lunch for the many people lined up outside the house.

Alex: I find myself wondering about you, Ms. Day.

Day: Call me Dorothy. Everyone does.

Alex: Okay, Dorothy, tell me this. In this house you welcome people each day. Some leave; some stay. Why not let them all live on the street?

Day: The early Church had a saying. It went like this: “Every home should have a Christ room in it so that hospitality may be practiced.”

Alex: What do you mean by hospitality?

Day: I believe that it is practicing God's mercy.

Alex: Yes, but drunkards live here! I met one last night. People who are down and out live here. They have nothing to contribute to the house! How long do they get to stay?

Day: Forever. They are members of our family. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Alex: Your paper says that we must look for Christ in each person we meet.

Day: If we looked for Christ's goodness in each person, we would live the Gospels. In the person who is strange to us, different from us, we meet Christ.
Alex: Is that why you’re a pacifist? Because you see Christ in everyone, even the people we call enemies?

Day: We are one body in Christ. Do you remember the gospel story about Peter drawing his sword?

Alex: I do remember that. It was the night before Jesus died on the cross. His enemies had come to arrest him.

Day: That’s it! Jesus said that all who draw the sword will die by the sword.

Alex: That’s not true. People go to war and come back alive.

Day: Some part of them dies. Some beautiful part that was innocent and good.

Alex: So that’s why you spoke out against World War I and the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and World War II in the early 1940s.

Day: I spoke out because I believe Jesus gave us a way to live in peace. He asked us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, shelter the homeless, visit the sick.

Alex: Our teacher calls those works of mercy.

Day: They are the works of hospitality, God’s mercy. We can’t do good with one hand and take revenge on others with the other hand. We can’t do that and remain sane and humane children of God.

Alex: Not everyone is thirsty or hungry or imprisoned or naked or sick. So do you help only a few?

Day: Look around you. Look at the volunteers in this room. Look at the people waiting outside. Look at the businessmen on Wall Street. We are all imprisoned in our own experiences, our own prejudices, and our own loneliness!

Alex: You get fiery about this, don’t you? I’ve heard you’re a real hothead!

Day: It’s true. I don’t deny it. As I said to someone one day, “I hold more temper in one minute than you hold in your entire life.” It makes me angry when people dismiss the poor, when they don’t take the Gospels seriously.

Alex: Do you think Martin Luther King’s nonviolence is a way to take the Gospels seriously?

Day: I do. I think nonviolence always wins—in the end.

Alex: Are you going to get involved in the civil rights movement?

Day: I’ve thought about going down South.
Alex: Should you do that? You could be killed for helping Blacks!

Day: I could be killed walking across the street! Better to die for something I believe in!

Alex: So what do you plan to do?

Day: I’m going to visit Koinonia.

Alex: Isn’t that the Christian farming community in Georgia where blacks and whites live together peacefully?

Day: Yes.

Alex: But Dorothy, just the other day the newspaper said that the Ku Klux Klan had fired a machine-gun at one of the community’s houses. They’ve burned crosses on the community’s property!

Day: That’s true.

Alex: Dorothy, write about what’s happening, but don’t go there. If you die, who’ll carry on your work?

Day: You will. Volunteers will. Jesus’ Spirit lives on. We can let go and let God.

Alex: Dorothy, I’m afraid for you.

Day: Don’t be afraid. Pray for me and my work. Years ago, in 1932, when I was reporting on the Hunger March in Washington, I felt hopeless about the needs of the people in the march. They wanted jobs! Unemployment insurance! Old age pensions! Relief for widowed mothers and children! Health care! Affordable housing! I felt helpless.

Alex: What did you do?

Day: I went to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. I asked God to open some way for me to use my talents for the poor.

Alex: And what happened?

Day: The next day, December 9, 1932, I came back to my apartment in New York. Peter Maurin was waiting for me there. He changed my whole life. He was God’s answer to my prayer. Peter had the idea for the Catholic Worker newspaper. Through it, I have given my talents to the poor.

Alex: Have you prayed about going to Georgia?
Day: I have.

Alex: Amen then. I can’t go with you to Georgia, Dorothy, but I’ll pray for you, and I’ll ask God to bless your work.

Day: As Psalm 127 says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” If our work is God’s work, it will succeed.

Alex: I hope no one puts you in jail again for doing this!

Day: Don’t worry! I’ve been jailed many times and will be again. To live the Gospels, we may have to give up a little comfort.

Alex: I wish you only the best, Dorothy.

Day: And I wish you success in finding Christ Jesus in everyone.

Epilogue

Dorothy Day did go to Georgia in 1957. As she was taking a turn at the sentry post, a car slowed down. A bullet barely missed her. Still she continued to work for peace and justice. In 1973, she marched in a banned picket line to support farm workers. Once again, the local authorities threw her in jail. Day was 75 at the time.

Dorothy Day died on November 29, 1980. Today, many people call her a modern saint for she tried to truly live the Gospels. I’ve decided to read her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*. I’ll never forget one thing she said to me as we peeled potatoes together. “If I have achieved anything in my life, it is because I have not been embarrassed to talk about God.”
There was once a very wonderful priest named Oscar Romero who lived in El Salvador. He became the Archbishop of San Salvador because many people thought he was conservative and would not try to change the way things were.

In his country, at that time, there was a great deal of poverty and many people were being arrested unfairly and often tortured and murdered by the government leaders. The people did not have any rights to own their own land, to organize, to change laws that were unfair to the average person.

When Archbishop Romero became the leader of the Church in El Salvador, a civil war was raging there. One day one of Oscar Romero’s friends, who was a priest, was murdered. He had been working for the rights of workers and speaking out against the brutality of the government. His death led Romero to realize how important it was for the Church to be on the side of impoverished and mistreated people. He began to see many violations of human rights. He began a ministry of speaking out on behalf of the poor and victims of the country’s civil war.

He came to the people to heal them, forgive them, and bring them peace and joy. But then also, he gave them a challenge: “As God has sent me, I send you to bring that peace through reconciliation and forgiveness into the community and from the community into the world.” Certainly, that’s what Archbishop Romero preached: reconciliation and forgiveness. He understood the message of Jesus: Don’t just love those who love you, love your enemy. Do good to those who hurt you. That’s how you will bring reconciliation and peace into our world -- through forgiveness, through love.

Like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, he was martyred for his nonviolent advocacy. In 1980, he was assassinated by gunshot while he celebrated Mass. His death provoked international outcry for human rights reform in El Salvador.
Oscar Romero had received many threats to his life, he knew that there were many forces who wanted to kill him but this did not stop him from preaching his message. Speaking to a reporter, he once said “As a shepherd, I am obliged by divine mandate to give my life for those I love, that is, for those who may be going to kill me.” The first ones he thinks of: “I give my life for those who may be going to kill me. These are people I love and will never stop loving.”

Then he told the reporters, “In fact, if indeed they kill me, you may tell them even now, I bless and forgive those who do it.”

In 1997, a cause for beatification and canonization into sainthood was opened for Romero, and Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Servant of God. He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018.

*The source of this recounting is not known. If YOU know who wrote it, please forward that information on to us so that we may give the author proper credit.*
POPE FRANCIS

Should Pope Francis receive the Nobel Peace Prize?

One of the most important awards anyone can receive is the Nobel Peace Prize. It is given to one person or group of people who have worked in extraordinary ways to bring peace to the people on earth. The first prize was awarded over 120 years ago. It was established “to honor the person or group who has done the most or the best work for brotherhood between nations, for the end or decreasing the size of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace meetings.”

This award places the person in the international spotlight and encourages all of us to do what we can to work for a better world. You may recognize some of the previous winners and understand why they were chosen. Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela of South Africa, President Barack Obama, Martin Luther King, Jr., President Jimmy Carter, and Vice President Al Gore. In 2014 the youngest person was 17-year old Malaya Yousafzai who, in spite of being shot, continued to work for the rights of girls to go to school in her country of Afghanistan.

We think Pope Francis would be an excellent candidate for this prize. We want to nominate Pope Francis for the Nobel Peace Prize, and here’s why:

(Give each student one of the following reasons and have them stand up and read why.)

1. Pope Francis has shown commitment to the work of healing old wounds not only in his own church but with other churches and governments and even among bitter enemies.
2. He took an active role in helping the U.S. and Cuba become friends again after over 50 years of hostilities.
3. He has sent a good will message to the president of China and the people. He wants to restore Vatican ties to China where Catholics have not been allowed to openly worship for many years.
4. He invited the Israeli and Palestinian presidents to the Vatican for a prayer session.
After many years of war these two countries did not agree to peace but it showed how Pope Francis is willing to become personally involved in peacemaking efforts.

5. He met with the Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church which had separated from the Roman Catholic Church over 900 years ago. He hopes to restore the friendship between them. This would be a big step toward Christian unity.

6. He has encouraged all priests and church authorities to be more loving and kind as they deal with people who have lost hope because they have felt abandoned by the Church.

7. He has spoken out against the death penalty saying the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” includes the good and the guilty.

8. He has made a strong call to fight human-induced climate change in a passionate speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

9. He has spoken for the rights of immigrants and encouraged nations to take refugees into their countries.

10. He has challenged the wealthy countries to share their bounty with those who are poor.

11. Pope Francis has been a powerful advocate for peace, urging an end to war. He demonstrates a daily commitment to nonviolence through his words and actions.

12. Pope Francis declared 2016 as the Year of Mercy telling everyone that forgiveness and love are more important than punishment. He believes that since God is merciful then we should be the same.

Let’s send his name to a qualified nominator for the Nobel Peace Prize committee in Oslo, Norway. The list that describes “qualified nominators” is here:

Criteria for nominators - Nobel Peace Prize

By Madeline Labriola
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The story of a peace hero: St. Francis of Assisi
A reflection based on the work of Fr. John Dear and William Hart McNichol, “You Will be my Witnesses: Saints, Prophets and Martyrs.”

Play or sing the song Prayer of St. Francis by Sebastian Temple. Stop after each sentence and reflect:

Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your love...
In the year 1219 Francis began a year-long, unarmed walk right through a war zone from Italy to Northern Africa. He met the Sultan, Melek el Kamel, the leading Muslim commander. Speaking of Francis the Sultan later said, “If all Christians are like this, I would not hesitate to become one.”

Where there is injury your pardon Lord...
When Francis was urged to condemn a priest who was living with a woman and her children, he went to the family’s home and met the priest. He bent down and kissed the man’s feet.
In giving of ourselves that we receive…
One day while praying at the church of San Damiano, the crucifix spoke to him and said, “Go rebuild my church which is falling down.” Francis thought that God wanted him to physically rebuild the collapsing church building, so he started making repairs to that church and other church buildings. But over time Francis realized that God wanted him to rebuild the entire church through prayer, poverty and peace.

Where there’s despair in life let me bring hope, where there is sadness, ever joy…
Francis once came upon a man with leprosy. He was so appalled by the disease that he turned away. Then he realized that Christ is present in the poorest person, so he turned back and served him, even kissed him. From that day on, Francis gave his life to the poor and the marginalized.

In dying we are born to eternal life…
When Francis died he said to the friars around him, “I have done my part. May Christ teach you to do yours.”

As we sing the prayer of St. Francis let us be open to the presence and action of the spirit within us, that we may become ever more aware of the part that Christ is calling us to play.
SISTER THEA BOWMAN
Should Sister Thea Bowman be canonized?

A panel discussion
- Choose five panelists to read testimony.

Introduction:

In the Catholic Church there is a special designation for people who lead extraordinary lives of Christian spirituality. They go above and beyond ordinary people by their words and actions as they try to live a life fully developed in God's calling.

When such a person dies he/she may come to the attention of the Catholic Church in Rome. A formal request for an individual to be considered for sainthood is submitted to a special Vatican tribunal. The candidate's life is further evaluated and evidence given to a panel of theologians and the cardinals of the Congregation for Cause of Saints.

The request must explain how the person lived a life of holiness, pureness, kindness and devotion. If the candidate meets the requirements, the tribunal officially recognizes this person to be a Servant of God.

Beatification is the next step toward sainthood, allowing the person to be
honored in other regions and by other groups. It must be proven, however, that the person has performed a miracle after their passing. This rule does not apply to martyrs. In order to be deemed a saint, they must also be responsible for a second miracle. They are then canonized.

You are a member of the panel of theologians and cardinals who will examine the life of Sr. Thea Bowman who is being considered for sainthood. Sit at the front of the room and present your case.

1st panelist:
The U.S. bishops endorsed the sainthood cause of Sister Thea Bowman on Nov. 14, 2018, during their fall assembly in Baltimore. The granddaughter of slaves, she was the only African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and she transcended racism to leave a lasting mark on U.S. Catholic life in the late 20th century.

2nd panelist:
Born Dec. 29, 1937, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Thea was raised as a Protestant until at age nine when she asked her parents if she could become a Catholic.

Gifted with a brilliant mind, beautiful voice and a dynamic personality, Sister Thea shared the message of God’s love through a teaching career. After 16 years of teaching, at the elementary, secondary and university level, the bishop of Jackson, Mississippi, invited her to become the consultant for intercultural awareness.

3rd panelist:
In her role as consultant Sister Thea, an African American, gave presentations across the country; lively gatherings that combined singing, gospel preaching, prayer and storytelling. Her programs were directed to break down racial and cultural barriers. She encouraged people to communicate with one another so that they could understand other cultures and races.

4th panelist:
In 1984, Sr. Thea was diagnosed with breast cancer. She prayed “to live until I die.” Her prayer was answered, and Thea continued her gatherings seated in a wheelchair. In 1989, the U.S. bishops invited her to be a key speaker at their conference on Black Catholics. At the end of the meeting, at Thea’s invitation, the bishops stood and sang “We Shall Overcome” with gusto.
5th panelist:

Thea lived a full life. She fought evil, especially prejudice, suspicion, hatred and things that drive people apart. She fought for God and God’s people until her death in 1990.

Throughout her life, Sister Thea pioneered the rights of African-Americans in the Catholic church and refused to accept the racial injustices that she witnessed within her community, paving the way for future female leaders.

Here is a link to Sr. Thea’s address to the U.S. bishops in 1989.

Discussion:

- What traits does Sr. Thea possess that would qualify her for canonization?
- What were her contributions to the Church?
- What obstacles did she face?
GENERAL PLAN FOR TEACHING ABOUT PEACEMAKERS

Objective: To provide teachers and others with a working knowledge and practical ideas for teaching the beatitude “Blessed are the Peacemakers.”

- To help teachers discover ways to encourage their students to be peacemakers
- What does it mean to be a peacemaker to today’s young people?
- Identify people who were peacemakers
- Make connections to the modern day peacemakers
- Discover why being a peacemaker is an important part of the Christian message
- Learn skills to becoming a peacemaker in their lives
- Identify Jesus as a peacemaker

Introductions

- Think about someone whom you know and admire or read about who you would consider a hero.
- Brainstorm a list of heroes on newsprint.
• What are the characteristics of these people that made you put them on your list? (Remarkably brave person, somebody admired, stands up for others)

We are going to look at some historic and modern day heroes who are peacemakers.

**The greatest peacemaker of all is Jesus, and his story has inspired many of the famous peacemakers.**

1. Dorothy Day  
2. St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer of St. Francis)  
3. Oscar Romero  
4. Pope Francis  
5. Mother Teresa  
6. Sister Thea Bowman

**Short discussion after each:**

• What part of this story impressed you? Why?

• How can one be a peacemaker in today’s world?

• What qualities does one need to be a peaceful person? Here are some ideas...What would you add to this list?

  • Reverence  
  • Creativity  
  • Courage  
  • Patience  
  • Kindness  
  • Compassion  
  • Understanding  
  • Empathy
ACTIVITY #9

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL

Gather a group of people in a public place (at a Peace Pole, in front of a church, in a park). If music is available, begin and end with a peace song. Hand out copies of prayers to those reading if not done before. Dedicate the vigil to world peace. (Alternative: Hold a peace walk through your town stopping in front of various houses of worship to pray).

Examples of prayers for peace from different religious traditions

#1. Native American prayer

_The Sacred Hoop_ - (Nicholas Black Elk, Oglala Lakota visionary and teacher)

Then I was standing
On the highest mountain
Of them all,

And round beneath me
Was the whole hoop
Of the world
And while I stood there
I saw more than I can tell

And I understood
More than I saw
For I was seeing
In the sacred manner
The shape of all things
Of the spirit

And the shapes
As they must live
Together like one being.
And I saw the sacred hoop
Of my people
Was one of many hoops
That made one circle, wide as daylight and starlight

   And in the center grew one
   Mightily flowering tree

To shelter all the children
Of one mother
And one father

   And I saw that it was holy.

#2 Christian prayer for peace

Almighty God and Creator, you are the
Father (and Mother) of all people of the earth,
Guide I pray all the nations and their leaders
In the ways of justice and peace.
Protect us from the evils of injustice,
Prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war.
Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.
Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.
Lead us to find justice, peace and freedom.
Unite us in the making and creating of the tools of peace
Against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression.
Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters
Created in your image to your honor and praise
Amen
**#3 African American prayer**

Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities – those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of racial stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a Church and nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed People of Color where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Written by the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team)*

**#4 Muslim prayer for peace**

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful,
Praise to the Lord of the Universe
who has created us and made us into tribes and nations;
That we may know each other,
Not that we may despise each other.
If the enemy inclines toward peace,
Do you also incline toward peace?
And trust God for the Lord is the one that hears and knows all things.
And the servants of God,
most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility.
And when we address them, we say “PEACE”
May all beings everywhere
Seen and unseen
Dwelling far off or nearby
Being or waiting to become
May all be filled with lasting joy.

Let no one deceive another,
Let no one anywhere despise another
Let no one out of anger or resentment
Wish suffering on anyone at all

Just as a mother with her own life
Protects her child her only child, from harm,
So within yourself let grow
A boundless love for all creatures.

Let your love flow outward through the universe,
To its height, its depth, its broad extent,
A limitless love without hatred or enmity.

Then as you stand or walk
Sit or lie down,
As long as you are awake,
Strive for this with a one-pointed mind;
Your life will bring heaven on earth.
#6 Jewish prayer for peace

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we shall beat our swords into plowshares, and our spurs into turning hooks. Nations shall not lift up sword towards nation Neither shall they learn war anymore. And none shall be afraid. For the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

#7 Hindu prayer for peace

O God, lead us from the unreal to the Real. O God, lead us from darkness to light. O God, lead us from death to immortality, Shanti, Shanti, Shanti (Peace, peace, peace) Unto all. O Lord God Almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions. May there be peace on earth.

May the waters be appeasing, May herbs be wholesome And may trees and plants bring peace to all May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May all things be a source of peace to us. And may your peace itself, bestow peace on all, And may that peace come to me also.
#8 Universal peace prayer

The following prayer authored by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy was used in many places in inter-religious worships around the time the Gulf War in 1991:

Eternal God Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.
Great and wonderful are your works, wondrous are your ways.
Thank you for the many-splendored variety of your creation.
Thank You for the many ways we affirm your presence and purpose,
And the freedom to do so.
Forgive our violation of your creation.
Forgive our violence toward each other.
We stand in awe and gratitude for your persistent love
For each and all of your children:
Christian, Jew, Muslim,
As well as those with other faiths.
Grant to all and our leaders attributes of the strong
Mutual respect In words and deed,
Restraint in the exercise of power, and
The will for peace with justice for all
Eternal God, creator of the universe, there is no God but you.
Amen
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Use examples of Pax Christi USA’s Teachers of Peace
2. Lesson Plans and Resources | Arkansas Peace Week from Pax Christi Little Rock
3. Just Peace/Just War, a program for high school students from Pax Christi Metro New York
4. Peace education and parenting materials – Catholic Nonviolence Initiative