

## **INTERCEDING WITH THE LORD and One ANOTHER for PEACE**

**God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him;  
male and female He created them.  
God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good.  
Genesis 1:27**

**Pope Benedict XVI has chosen "The human person: The heart of peace"  
as the theme for the 2007 World Peace Day.  
Respect for the dignity of the human person is an essential condition for  
peace in the human family.**

**Human dignity must be promoted and defended because human dignity  
"is the seal of God," Who created men and women in His likeness; it is  
"the sign of the common destiny of humanity and the foundation of love  
for God and for one's neighbor.**

**"The Church's mission is to announce 'The Gospel of Life,' the centrality  
of the human person in the universe and the love of God for humanity.**

**The church's mission includes proclaiming the dignity of each person,  
the obligation to work for the common good and the need for  
individual human actions to correspond to "the order impressed by God  
on the universe.**

**Every offence against a person "is a threat to peace, every threat to  
peace is an offence against the truth of the person and of God.  
The human person is the heart of peace.**



**Let us pause and remember that we are  
in the holy presence of God.  
Each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit  
with God dwelling in us.  
Glory to You, Source of All-Being,  
Eternal Word,  
and Life-Giving Spirit,  
as it was, is now, and forever shall be.  
Amen.**

We are sent forth  
empowered by  
**Christ's fiery Spirit**  
on a peaceable  
mission to a  
violent world.

—Leo Hartshorn  
Minister of Peace and Justice,  
Mennonite Mission Network



**SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 5: 38–48**

**You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'**

**But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.**

**If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well.**

**Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.**

**Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.**

**You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'**

**But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.**

**For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same?**

**And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same?**

**So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**Lord, give me love in my heart:**

**Love for all peoples,**

**Love for the earth,**

**Love for myself.**

**Lord, give me love in my heart.**

**Lord, give me forgiveness in my heart:**

**Forgiveness for myself,**

**Forgiveness for others,**

**Forgiveness for humanity.**

**Lord, give me forgiveness in my heart.**

**Lord, give me hope in my heart:**

**Hope for a more peaceful world,**

**Hope for an end to poverty,**

**Hope for justice.**

**Lord, give me hope in my heart.**



Lord, you have said to us “Peace I leave with you”.  
This peace that you give us is not that of this world:  
it is not the peace of order, when order oppresses;  
it is not the peace of silence, when silence is born of suppression;  
it is not the peace of resignation, when such resignation is unworthy.  
Your peace is love for all people,  
is justice for all people,  
is truth for all people,  
the truth that liberates and stimulates growth.  
Lord, it is this peace we believe in because of your promise.  
Grant us peace, and we will give this peace to others.  
*Waldensian Community, Italy. Overcoming Violence webpage – World Council of Churches*

Peace is in the heart of God  
but how shall we find peace between people?  
there can be no flower of peace  
from the seeds of discord;  
there can be no fruit of peace  
from the root of injustice;  
there can be no reaping of peace  
from the sowing of oppression.  
But when in our thoughts  
we honor God and our neighbors,  
when in our words  
we encourage those who are lonely or depressed,  
when in our actions  
we seek justice and freedom for all,  
then peace breaks out with happiness  
in all the places where people meet,  
and women and men, young and old,  
join in the tongues of all the nations  
to praise the Prince of Peace,  
Jesus, Emmanuel, God alongside us.

*John Johansen-Berg*



In Pope Paul VI's 1967 encyclical, *Populorum Progressio* reminds us that *God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles and to choose to live simple and sustainable lives in solidarity with the poor. In this way we can help create a world in which human dignity is respected and everyone can reach their full potential.*

**Give me a heart of poverty,  
able to love and open up and give myself to others.**

**Give me a heart of patience,  
able to love and live in hope.**

**Give me a heart of peacefulness,  
able to love and sow peace in the world.**

**Give me a heart of justice,  
able to love and measure myself by the standard of justice.**

**Give me a heart of mercifulness,  
able to love and understand and forgive others.**

**Give me a heart of sensitivity,  
able to love and weep without being discouraged.**

**Give me a heart of purity,  
able to love and see God in everyone.**

**Give me a heart of strength,  
able to love and be faithful unto death.**

**Give me a heart touched by the Gospel,  
able to love.**

*Overcoming Violence webpage – World Council of Churches*

### **REFLECTIONS ON HUMAN DIGNITY**

**What is more human?**

**The end of want;  
everyone having enough;  
the end of social ills of every kind;  
more knowledge;  
more culture;  
respect for the dignity of others;  
the spirit of poverty;  
cooperation for the common good;  
the will of peace.**

### **REFLECTION**

**Peacemaking should never be abstract. It should have a human face. Where is the human face in front of you, the person to whom you can say, "Come stay with me"? You will discover that those little people are the ones who give you the peace and the joy and the harmony of heart, who blow out your fear and give you some real freedom. If you want to be a real peacemaker, always look for the little ones, and your fear will slowly go, because it is through the little ones that God reveals to**

**us God's perfect love. So resistance is saying "no" to death and "yes" to life – especially where it is most vulnerable.**

Henri Nouwen, "Living in the House of Love", from *The Road to Peace*, ed. John Dear. Orbis 1998

**The fundamental question of our lives, and perhaps of our century, is not the discovery of new knowledge or the development of new technology, but whether or not we can commit ourselves as persons and as a society to love and serve each other. Can we, amidst the ideologies and perplexities of our age, rediscover the human face and soul?**

Marc Ellis, from *A Year at the Catholic Worker*. Paulist Press, 1979

**Our Father....**

**HYMN WORLD PEACE PRYER**

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.**

**Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our universe.**

**Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,  
still now Your people die, earth's sons and daughters.**

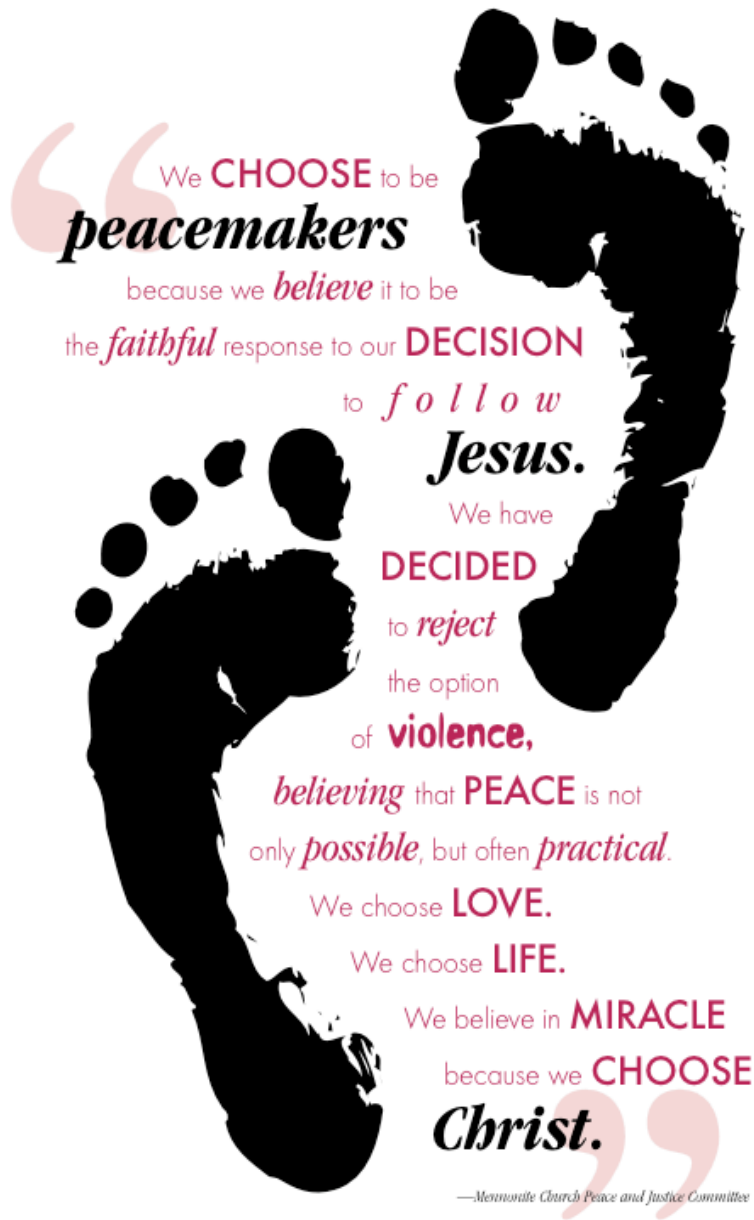
**Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
let us begin to grow into Your people.**

**We can be love, we can bring peace,  
we can sill be Your way of compassion.**

**So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,  
longing for love to break into their darkness.**

**Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,  
come and teach us Your way of compassion.**

Marty Haugen, 1985, GIA Publications



—Memphis Church Peace and Justice Committee

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**Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to see the face of God in one another.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**

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