

Discipleship of Nonviolence

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

Deuteronomy 30:15–20	Choosing life
Micah 4:1–7	Hammering swords into plowshares
Zechariah 8:14–17	Doing harm to no one
Luke 6:20–26	The Beatitudes
Matthew 26:47–52	Refusing to fight back
Acts 4:32–35	Living as a community of one heart
Hebrews 13:1–3, 5–8	Living as God wishes

Conciliar Documents

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

77: Fostering a peace based on justice and love

78: Christians urged to bring about lasting peace

Papal Documents

Declaration on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis humanae) (December 7, 1965) Pope Paul VI (See especially, 7: Peaceful settlement of conflicts.)

On Social Concern (Sollicitudo rei socialis) (December 30, 1987), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis_en.html

Commemorates the twentieth anniversary of Pope Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio* and reaffirms the continuity of the Church's teaching on social justice.

On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii nuntiandi) (December 8, 1975), Paul VI

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html

The Church exists to continue Christ's mission of evangelization. As members of the Church, we are called to be evangelizers through action for social justice in everyday life.

Peace on Earth, (Pacem in terris), (April 11, 1963), Pope John XXIII
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html

Affirmation of human rights and call for peace based on trust and respect for all people.

The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae), (March 25, 1995), Pope John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html

Describes the culture of death and calls for a culture of life, with a focus on newer threats to life.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

(Click on [Catechism](#) to find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Web.)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

- #484–511 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p122a3p2.htm>
Conceived by Power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary
- #721–726 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c3a8.htm#V>
Rejoice, you who are full of grace
- #829 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p3.htm>
In Mary the Church is already the “all-holy”
- #1716 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c1a2.htm>
The Beatitudes as a way of life
- #1909 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a2.htm#I>
Peace as the work of justice
- #2306 <http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a5.htm#I>
The value of nonaggression

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Documents

The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response (1983).

Summarizes the Church’s teaching on peacemaking in light of nuclear weapons and the arms race.

Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish. Approved by U.S. Catholic Bishops at their General Meeting, November 1993. <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/saltandlight.htm>

These reflections bring together the principles of the bishops’ social teaching along with local pastoral experience in an overall orientation and general framework for parish social ministry.

Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action (November 1994).

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/criminal/ccv94.htm>

Pastoral message addressing the need for a moral revolution in creating a culture of nonviolence and calling for mobilizing the Catholic community in this direction.

Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops (November 1999) [English]

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everyday.htm>

[Spanish] <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everydaysp.htm>.

A Pastoral Reflection on Lay Discipleship for Justice in a New Millennium.

Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, U.S. Catholic Bishops (September 1999).
<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/citizenship.htm>

Explores how the Third Millennium can be the beginning of greater respect for human life and dignity, with a growing commitment to justice and peace. Presents the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and moral priorities for public life.

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States. U.S. Catholic Bishops (November 1992). *Text, Study Guide, and Implementation Process* by Susan W. Blum, Ed. D. Washington, DC: National Council for Catholic Evangelization, 1994. To order: <http://www.usccb.org/evangelization/publications.htm>

The National Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops proposes three goals for evangelization and social transformation, recommends strategies, and offers resources for proclaiming the story of salvation. Special study guide offers faith-sharing questions for each section and a step-by-step process for planning parish evangelization in small groups.

To order: <http://www.catholic-evangelization.org/products>

The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace: A Reflection of the NCCB on the Tenth Anniversary of "The Challenge of Peace" (November 1993). <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/harvest.htm>

Addresses the value of nonviolence, and examines the just-war theory, conscientious objection, and the development of peoples.

Justice in the World (1971).

Names action for justice as a constitutive element of the gospel, and calls on the Church itself to be just.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions, U.S. Catholic Bishops (June 1999).
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/contents.htm>

The Church's social teaching is integral to Catholic identity and mission. Expresses the bishops' search for ways to bring the Church's social teaching into all Catholic education and spiritual formation.

Sharing the Tradition and Shaping the Future: A Faith Sharing Experience for Christian Communities (2001).

This booklet, prepared by The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, is intended to enable adults to enter into and grow in awareness of the social justice tradition of the Catholic Church. This is done through weekly segments that highlight the seven themes chosen by the U.S. Catholic bishops. Each session begins with a gospel reading, followed by reflection, focus questions for group discussion, and suggested actions.

Strengthening the Bonds of Peace: A Pastoral Reflection on Women in the Church and in Society, U.S. Catholic Bishops (1995). <http://www.usccb.org/laity/bonds.htm>

With Pope Paul VI's words in mind, this pastoral reflection considers leadership in the Church, equality of women and men, and diversity of gifts.

Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century

(To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>)

- pp. 27–29 Small communities and the social mission of the Church
- p. 40 Radical new relationship in the reign of God
- p. 110 Balanced spirituality based on Micah 6:8
- p. 114 Commitment to the world through small Christian communities

Books

A New Moment: An Invitation to Nonviolence (Erie, PA: Benet Press, 1986). A compilation of essays covering various aspects of the vow of nonviolence, as well as testimonies from individuals who have professed the vow of nonviolence.

Allaire, James and Rosemary Broughton. *Praying with Dorothy Day*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 1995. A presentation of the life and words of Dorothy Day, in a format for prayer and reflection.

Bailie, Gil. *Violence Unveiled: Humanity at the Crossroads*. New York: Crossroad/Herder & Herder, 1997. Teacher, lecturer, and writer Gil Bailie has written a book about the rise of violence and social disintegration in our culture, searching out its sources and proposing a way of salvation.

Children's Defense Fund (CDF). *State of America's Children 2000*. Washington, DC: CDF, 2000. An overview of issues critical to the well-being of America's youth in the year 2000. (CDF, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, phone: 202-628-8787)

Cordaro, Tom. *Reading the Signs of the Times: The Challenge of Peace Continues*. Erie, PA: Pax Christi USA, 1992. A reflection process on the moral challenges of the post-Cold War world in light of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' peace pastoral.

Cordaro, Tom. *To Wake the Nation: Nonviolent Direct Action for Personal and Social Transformation*. Erie, PA: Pax Christi USA, 1990. A primer for those who want to explore the ministry of nonviolent direct action for personal and social transformation.

DeBerri, Edward P., Peter J. Henriot, and Michael J. Schultheis. *Our Best Kept Secret: The Rich Heritage of Catholic Social Teaching*. Washington, DC: Center of Concern, 1987. A slim volume that provides a highly readable overview of papal documents that are part of Catholic social justice teaching; also outlines and explains the dominant themes of social justice tradition.

Harris, Maria. *Proclaim Jubilee! A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996. Considers the implications of living Jubilee (letting the land lie fallow, forgiving debts, freeing captives, observing Sabbath) in our time.

Henriot, Peter, SJ, and Joe Holland. *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice*. Washington, DC: Center of Concern, 1980. A clear outline and explanation of the faith-praxis cycle of experience, analysis, reflection, and action for living out our faith through the doing of justice.

Kownacki, Mary Lou, OSB. *Love Beyond Measure: A Spirituality of Nonviolence*. Erie, PA: Benet Press, 1993. A reflection series of five sessions on nonviolence, each with prayer ritual, related readings, and questions for individual reflection or group sharing.

McGinnis, Jim. *A Call to Peace: 52 Meditations on the Family Pledge of Nonviolence*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1998. This book helps develop a true sense of the nonviolence God calls us to in our homes with our families. Video and music resources are suggested.

McGinnis, Jim, Gretchen Lovingood, Ken Lovingood, and Jim Vogt. *Families Creating a Circle of Peace*. St Louis, MO: Families Against Violence Advocacy Network, 1996. Based on a Family Pledge of Nonviolence, this booklet includes stories, suggestions, activities, and other resources to help people live nonviolently in their everyday lives.

Rosenberg, Marc L., ed. *Violence in America: A Public Health Approach*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. Offers a landmark assessment of the problem of violence from a public health perspective. Its aim is both to describe what is known about violence in our society and to lead the way toward involving health professionals in both analysis and action. The authors, all internationally known experts in their fields, examine child, spouse, and elder abuse; sexual assault and rape; suicide; assaultive violence; and homicide. To each topic they bring an analysis of key issues in epidemiology, causal and risk factors, outcomes, and interventions.

Vanderhaar, Gerard. *Nonviolence in Christian Tradition*. London: Pax Christi, 1983. An overview of the roots and evolution of nonviolence from the New Testament through the twentieth century.

RENEW International Resources

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, and Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. A very hands-on manual that provides practical tools and insights for the ongoing growth and development of small Christian communities.

To order, click on: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>

IMPACT Series

Clark, Betsy, SSJ. *Discipleship of Nonviolence*. One of the *IMPACT* series by RENEW International, this booklet for individual or group reflection looks at the cycle of violence, language and violence, addressing personal and institutional violence, and moving toward living nonviolence.

To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/discimp.html> or call 1-888-433-3281

Jeselson, Mary Ann and Steve Jeselson. *Civic Responsibility: What's It All About?* RENEW International, 1996. Explores what it means to be a civic leader, encouraging participants to pursue creative solutions to a wide range of human concerns (six sessions).

To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/civcimp.html> or call 1-888-433-3281

McGuinness, Mary C. and Miriam Therese MacGillis. *Our Origin Story: Foundations for Ecological Responsibility*, revised and updated edition. RENEW International, 1999. Promotes a journey of personal transformation that will lead to the transformation of all that threatens the very life of the planet earth (six sessions). To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/originimp.html>

McGuinness, Mary C. and Thomas A. Kleissler. *Beginnings: Human and World Issues. Beginnings* explores the integration of faith and action—Christian responsibility—through reflection on a variety of topics including God's love, family, work, media, cherishing life, hunger, political responsibility, and ecology (eight sessions). To order:

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/beginimp.html>

Prejean, Helen, CSJ and Lucille Sarrat. *Reflections on "Dead Man Walking."* This exploration promises to help today's Christian uncover the facts and dispel the myths of the death penalty in the light of the gospel of Jesus and Catholic teaching. Perfect for any ministry, group, or small community, these six faith-sharing reflections also look at the emotional sufferings of victim's families (six sessions). To order:

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/reflecimp.html>

Web Site Links

(Note: RENEW International is not responsible for the content of any site listed below.)

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.htm>

Catholic Campaign for Human Development is an antipoverty program established in 1969 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its philosophy emphasizes empowerment and participation for the poor.

<http://www.catholicsevanglization.org>

The National Council for Catholic Evangelization, founded in 1983, exists to affirm, motivate, and network Catholic evangelization efforts throughout the United States.

<http://www.usccb.org>

The programs of the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* (USCCB) include Catholic concerns that range from prayers and worship to the state of the economy, from revitalizing parishes to averting nuclear war, from promoting vocations to protecting life at all stages.

See, in particular, the following pages from the USCCB Web site:

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/violence/anti.htm>

An extensive list of anti-violent resources that includes: the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and other National Organizations

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/violence/schools.htm>

Suggestions for nonviolence education for youth in school and parish settings

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/violence/parishes.htm>

Suggestions for parish implementation of nonviolence work

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/harvest.htm>

The call to peacemaking in a new world—an outline of *The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace*

<http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/97-005.htm>

Stand-Against-Violence Week

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/violence/king.htm>

Quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr., on violence and nonviolence

http://www.ipj-ppj.org/favan_new.html

Families Against Violence Advocacy Network (FAVAN) is a broadly based network of organizations, families, and individuals committed to violence prevention and the promotion of alternatives to violence in our families, schools, parishes, congregations, youth groups, colleges, and prisons. (See also, <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/violence/favan.htm>)

<http://www.nonviolence.org/links.htm>

The Nonviolent Web gives links to magazines, newsletters, peace organizations, and peace centers that promote nonviolence.

<http://www.pavnet.org>

Through the Information House of *The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence*, violence-related research information is collected, summarized, evaluated, and stored in a unique database—VIOLIT. Available are state-of-the-art abstracts of research literature; free topical database searches and bibliographic information, abstracts, and references to literature; a listing of violence prevention and treatment programs available to the public through the VIOPRO

database. A resource database is also available to the public, VIOSOURCE, stores information about violence-related curricula, videos, and other materials.