

Sisters of St Joseph of Peace



CSG Process
November 2009

Opening Song: *Bearers of Peace*

Chorus: People of Jesus, trusted to be
Bearers of peace from God's living tree,
Peace that the world itself cannot know,
The Peace that is given to plant and to grow.

Feel for the ones who have more bread,
Feel for the ones with children unfed.
Longing for food, they find in our hands
A mountain of weapons more sacred than land.

Feel for the ones whose homes are destroyed,
Feel for the lives now shattered and void.
Waiting for loved ones nobody saw:
The innocent people who suffer in war.

Stand with the ones who see a new way:
People of faith who struggle and pray,
Given the call to shape and rebuild
Our actions, our consciences, our broken world.

Pray for the day our children will see
War strange and distant as slavery.
Work for a world where new ways abound
To meet and to dialogue till peace is found.

Children of peace go forth through the earth,
Healing our world and bringing to birth
Vision to build and fashion a way:
The fullness of life for God's people today.

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Excerpts from our Constitutions:

We are people of peace, open to the liberating power of God, committed to live and proclaim Christ's gospel of peace, experiencing our own need for continuing conversion and willing to become peacemakers in the spirit of the beatitudes. Our vows and covenants commit us to walk in the way of peace.

--from Constitutions 28, 20, 10, 39, 40

First Reflection:

Spend sometime getting in touch with an experience where you experienced violence, felt you reacted with violence or witnessed violence to another. It could be any kind of violence: verbal, non-verbal, physical, etc. Reflect on how you reacted, what kind of emotional response it generated in you and feelings that you may still carry from the incident?

Share as much as you wish of your story and response with members

Reader: A Story

Discuss the story among yourselves. How do you imagine you would have responded in such a situation?

Second Reflection:

Spend some quiet time to create and write down your own description/meaning of nonviolence.

Share your definition with others and discuss the responses as desired.

Shared Reading: Some Statements and Principles of Nonviolence.

Each member reads one of the Principles.

Closing Prayer: Prayer for the Decade of Nonviolence