

## **Some Statements and Principles of Nonviolence**

### **Margaret Anna Cusack**

Let us learn, from the example of Jesus, how to order our words aright. The Catholic owes an especial duty to the world in this, for the world cannot understand patience under injury, silence under calumny, or gentle and courteous language to one who has done so deadly injustice. Book of the Blessed Ones, p. 168

Force was no longer to be the rule, except, indeed the force of love. Book of the Blessed Ones, p.213

We must try to teach ourselves meekness, and we must remember that Christian virtues are not to be obtained without effort, or by sitting down with folded hands. Book of the Blessed Ones, p. 224

If we would be peacemakers, and the dear children of God, we must try to follow His example, and try to imitate the peaceful life of Jesus of Nazareth-the self-sacrificing life of Jesus in his three years ministry. Book of the Blessed Ones, p. 352

### **Dorothy Day**

" As for ourselves, yes, we must be meek, bear injustice, malice, rash judgment. We must turn the other cheek, give up our cloak, go a second mile. "

" I believe that we must reach our brother, never toning down our fundamental oppositions, but meeting him when he asks to be met, with a reason for the faith that is in us, as well as with a loving sympathy for them as brothers. "

" The bridge - it seems to me - is love and the compassion (the suffering together) which goes with all love. Which means the folly of the Cross, since Christ loved men even to that folly of failure. "

" Women think with their whole bodies and they see things as a whole more than men do. "

" Words are as strong and powerful as bombs, as napalm. "

" The works of mercy are the opposite of the works of war, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, nursing the sick, visiting the prisoner. But we are destroying crops, setting fire to entire villages and to the people in them. We are not performing the works of mercy but the works of war. "

## **Thomas Merton**

Non-violence is not for power but for truth. It is not pragmatic but prophetic. It is not aimed at immediate political results, but at the manifestation of fundamental and crucially important truth. Non-violence is not primarily the language of efficacy, but the language of kairos. It does not say "We shall overcome" so much as "This is the day of the Lord, and whatever may happen to us, He shall overcome."

Cowardice asks the question, "Is it safe?" Expediency asks the question, "Is it politic?" Vanity asks the question, "Is it popular?" But conscience asks the question, "Is it right?" And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him that it is right.

## **CSJP Constitutions**

1. Christ is our peace, the source of our power. United with him we engage in the struggle against the reality of evil and continue the work of establishing God's reign of justice and peace.

11. In accord with our tradition we commit ourselves to promote peace in family life, in the church and in society. We strive to respect the dignity of all persons, to value the gifts of creation, and to confront oppressive situations. We respond to God's people in need and promote social justice as a way to peace.

23. Recalling Jesus' identification with the prophetic tradition, we develop a critical, sensitive conscience regarding religious, social, cultural, economic and political realities, and we direct our efforts to actions that bring peace through justice.

25. We strive to make peace a reality by becoming agents of reconciliation. Among ourselves and with others we work to heal divisions and hostilities so that integrity and wholeness may be more fully realized.

37. In all our efforts to be a community for mission, we acknowledge our interdependence with one another and our reliance on the love and fidelity of God to lead us into the way of peace.

## **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.

Nonviolence seeks to win friendships and understanding.

Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.

Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform

Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate

### **Mohandas Gandhi**

Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

We all have a piece of the truth.

All life is one

Human beings are more than the evil they sometimes commit.

We reaffirm our unity with others when we transform "us" verses "them" thinking and doing.

We are called to celebrate both our differences and our fundamental unity with others.

Our oneness calls us to want, and work for, the well-being of all.