Family of Holy Cross

Declaration on Non-Violence and Just Peace

Do not believe in violence; do not support violence. It is not the Christian way. It is not the way of the Catholic Church. Believe in peace and forgiveness and love; for they are of Christ.

Saint John Paul II, *Apostolic Journey to Ireland, Holy Mass in Drogheda,* 29 September 1979

To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence.

Pope Francis, *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*, 1 January 2017

Violence is rampant in our global society, embedded in social, economic, and cultural systems; and expressed in myriad forms such as marginalization and oppression, military conflict and terrorism, climate change and environmental degradation, inequality and scarcity, and interpersonal aggression.

Yet, just as fire does not extinguish fire, we recognize that "violence is not the cure for our broken world."[1] Rather, by words and example, Jesus taught us to respond to violence with love and forgiveness.

Therefore, we

Marianites of Holy Cross,
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,
Sisters of Holy Cross, and
Sisters of the Holy Cross

affirm that

- Nonviolence is at the heart of the message of Jesus.
- Nonviolence is intrinsic to right relationship with all creation, and
- Nonviolent systemic change requires contemplative, innovative responses to social problems and conflicts.

Accordingly, we reject violence in its multiple forms.

We support actions and policies that

- Promote nonviolent means of conflict resolution,
- Disallow discrimination of any kind,
- Generate an equitable economic system for all,
- Foster a culture of global solidarity and Just Peace, and
- Protect Earth and Life in all its diversity.

We oppose actions and policies that legitimate

- Violent responses to conflicts, particularly war and terrorism,
- Denial of human and civil rights,
- Economic and military policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality,
- Degradation of natural resources and ecosystems, and
- Violent and disrespectful political discourse.

We acknowledge that the nonviolent way of Jesus challenges us to

- Examine the quality of our interpersonal relationships,
- Own the complexity inherent in our struggle to live without violence,
- Engage in profound interior transformation,
- Counter a culture of individualism, greed, exclusion, and exploitation,
- Embrace interdependence, diversity, and commitment to the common good, and
- Lead by unifying.

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Notre Dame, Indiana, United States, 4 October 2017

[1] Pope Francis, *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*, 1 January 2017.