

10.13.2018

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

God's Children Are They

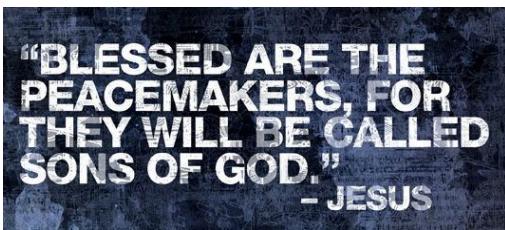
Why do you suppose that Jesus referred to those who earn the distinction peacemaker, as children of God? Perhaps it is their child-like demeanor that can put people at ease. Or is it a certain personality trait that has the power to diminish intense discussions; find common-ground when others are searching for an out to a difficult conversation; or mix the appropriate spiritual recipe that calls for proper doses of forgiveness, compassion, and humility.



Whatever His reasons, peacemakers are “Blessed” by Jesus in the 7th Beatitude mentioned in Matthew’s Gospel verse 5: 1-12. You know the type. They may be parents who have an almost uncanny communication style that effectively puts sibling warfare out-of-business. Some politicians have the insight necessary to engage political rivals in healthy debates that earns the respect of their adversaries and the community they serve.

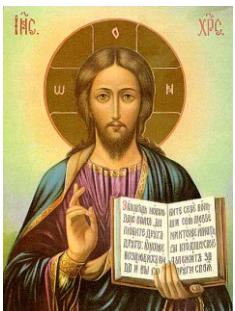
And one arena where peacemakers are desperately needed is youth baseball where umpires who inspire an “aura of peace” on the diamond, in the dugout, and among the fans, is rare indeed. An example of the latter is an umpire from Dayton, Ohio, who is known for controlling championship game angst by winning over the crowd during crucial calls, including balls and strikes, plays at the plate, and overall tempo of the game. I had the opportunity to witness the esteem his fellow umpires had for him moments before a state championship game was underway when another field umpire said, “You are very fortunate to have this gentleman behind the plate.” He wasn’t kidding as coaches, players, and parents, could only marvel at his peacemaking gifts.

Throughout history there have been many peacemakers known for the impact they had on their constituents, country, and the world. Some examples include: Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malala Yousafzai—all winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. But the one category of Peacemakers that deserves the highest recognition, is that of the victims of Nazi terror during WWII. Edith Stein, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oskar Schindler, Maximilian Kolbe, and Viktor Frankl, lead the list.



Understanding and emulating Peacemakers make the Modern World more like the Heaven we will go to when we die. Peacemakers mirror the message of the Living Christ. Understanding this Pillar of Truth improves one’s life in a dramatic and personal way to others.

Let us listen carefully as we take a Spiritual Journey and consider the Wisdom of Holy Scripture and Catechism. May God give to each one of us the necessary means to complete His Gift of our Unique and Holy Mission.



Romans 12:17-21 – Live in Peace

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge, but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord."

Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

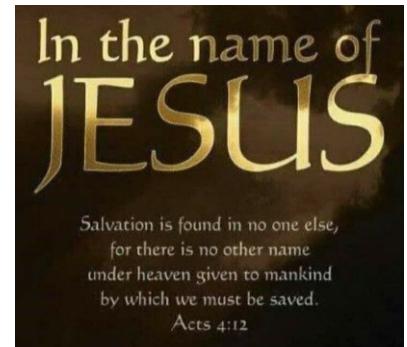
Romans 14:17-19 – Make Peace with All

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness; peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit; whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by others. Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another.

Matthew 5:9 – Those Who are Blessed

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

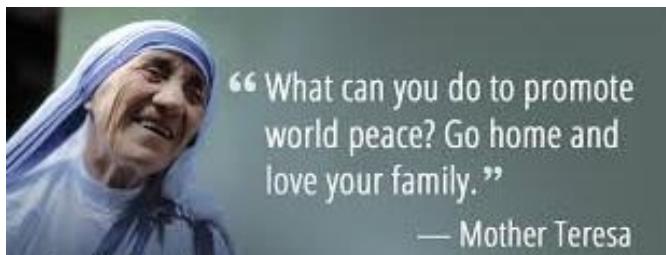
The Word of the Lord



Catechism

2304 - Peace is Indispensable for Christ's Work

Respect for and the development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communications among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is "the tranquility of order." Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity.



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David Eich

Edith Stein was a Jewish intellectual living in Germany when Hitler came to power. After learning her favorite college professor was a Christian, Edith began reading the writings of several Doctors of the Church. She eventually became a Catholic and entered the Carmelite Order where she took the name, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Eventually the future saint ended up in Auschwitz where she quickly became recognized for her compassion to those who suffered death camp horrors. She died in the gas chamber.

Maximilian Kolbe also died in Auschwitz but not before he was ordained, founded the Knights of the Immaculata, encouraged fellow prisoners to pray for their S.S. guards, and eventually traded his life for that of another condemned man. He died in a starvation bunker with ten other men on August 14th, 1941.

Oskar Schindler whose story was told in the movie, Schindler's List, was credited with saving over 1100 Jews from execution in the last year of the war. Ironically, this German businessman used both cunning and peacemaking skills to convince the Nazi commandant to be merciful to his Jewish workers. This act of mercy eventually resulted in their lives being spared.



Viktor Frankl, author of the international best seller, Man's Search for Meaning, used his Auschwitz experience to encourage optimism regardless of the tragic circumstances one is facing. One example is his story about the dying prisoner who always had a smile on his face. He told the future author: "They have taken my family, my friends, and my dignity. And I'll be damned if I'm going to give them my attitude."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." The Lutheran pastor authored The Cost of Discipleship—based on the Sermon on the Mount. He lived his message and was eventually hanged on April 8th, 1945 for speaking out against Hitler and for the role he played in the Valkyrie plot. Six years later his bishop wrote a letter to the Bonhoeffer family where he said, "He (Bonhoeffer) was a good and saintly man. He was, without exception, the finest and most loveable man I had ever met."

Questions for Discussion:

1. Have you ever witnessed an individual that had the gift of peacemaking? Please provide examples.

2. How do you reconcile Bonhoeffer's role as a potential assassin, or Schindler's involvement with slave labor, with the title, peacemaker? Explain.



Men's Group Calendar A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.



| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/27/2018 | Leadership Meeting | 8 AM Sacred Heart Library |
| 11/10/2018 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |
| 11/24/2018 | Leadership Meeting | 8 AM Sacred Heart Library |
| 12/8/2018 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |

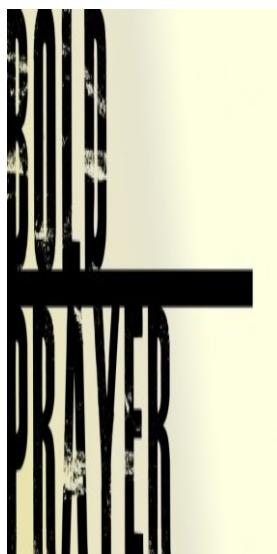
Bring Christ into the Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with Lord Jesus in Adoration. Silence fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to life. Family, friends, church...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. Doubting is OK if we bring it honestly to Him. He can and will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be in the emptiness, not running from it, not trying to fix or fill it. Letting Him love you and do the work He wants you to do.
- Ask: What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does He want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M WORRIED, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF. WHEN I'M AT PEACE, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I REMEMBER THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.

Blessed are those that can give without remembering and take without forgetting. Give away samples of Jesus.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who you put into my life. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them peace and mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need and emptiness with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen



Our Lady of Victory – Our Lady of the Rosary

October 7, 1571 – The Truth of What Happened

By the middle of the 15th century, the Moslem Ottoman Empire had conquered the Byzantine Empire, plunging a large portion of eastern Christendom under Moslem rule. Over the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire further and further west, both on land and by sea.

They terrorized the coasts of Italy and Spain, taking captive over 10,000 Christians, whom they used as slaves. By 1565, they were projecting their power throughout the Mediterranean Sea and launched an attack on the Island of Malta, located at the strategic center of this sea-region. 30,000 Moslem soldiers beset 600 Knights Hospitalers and 8,000 men, who outlasted the summer-long siege to near annihilation and saw the Moslem forces withdraw. Despite this hard-won victory, the Turks came back and besieged Cypress in 1570. Over 20,000 inhabitants were tortured and then slaughtered. Thousands were enslaved ensuring the Moslem Empire a steady stream of slaves.

The Christian leader at Cypress, Bragadino was bound and forced to watch as his attendants were hacked to pieces. The Turks thrice thrust the Venetian governor's neck on the executioner's block and thrice lifted it off. Instead of his head, they cut off his nose and ears. To prevent his bleeding to death, they cauterized the wounds with hot irons. Then he was strung up in chains, hoisted over a galley spar, and left to hang for a time. Finally, the courageous governor was dragged into the city square and lashed to the pillory, where the Turks flayed him alive. Witnesses said they heard him whispering a Latin prayer. He died "when the executioner's knife reached the height of his navel." The diabolical orgy did not end there. Mustafa had the governor's skin stuffed, hoisted it up the mast of his galley, and joined the Ottoman fleet headed west.

Pope Saint Pius V now had grave and immediate concerns, that within the year, the Moslem forces could invade any part of Christian Europe and bring it to its knees. So he financed a naval fleet and formed a coalition, known as the Holy League, to counter this threat and protect Christians.



Many of the major powers in Europe were reluctant to enter into a war that could result in their financial ruin. The Venetians were interested in finding a diplomatic solution, but when their diplomats, who had been promised safety, were attacked and murdered by the Turks, the reality of this threat became more apparent, and they joined the Holy League.

Aside from Venice, the Spanish had one of the largest fleets in Europe, and recognizing the threat to Christendom joined the Holy League.

On October 7th, 1571, it is estimated that 206 galleys and 6 galleasses of the Holy League sailed to confront 230 Moslem galleys and 60 galliots at the Battle of Lepanto. At the Pope's insistence, all of Europe was asked to pray the rosary for the victory of the Christian fleet.



There was a vision of our Lady in the sky over the battle. When the smoke cleared that day, the majority of the Moslem fleet was decimated and they suffered nearly 30,000 casualties, while the Holy League lost very few ships and only 7,500 men, having also freed over 10,000 Christian slaves who were serving as oarsmen on the Moslem galleys.

Western Civilization was liberated from the Moslem threat and the victory was attributed to the intercession

of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A feast was instituted - The Feast of Our Lady of Victory (later renamed Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary).

Looking for help overcoming the struggles in your life? Try praying the Rosary, the Queen of Heaven is quick to come to our aid.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPLXaZzlwEw&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-battle-that-saved-the-christian-west>

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/history/how-the-1571-battle-of-lepanto-saved-europe.html>



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." -Mother Teresa

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GO TO CONFESSON. ILLUMINATE CHRIST.

On the day of the battle, Pope Pius had been consulting with his cardinals. He paused in the midst of their deliberations to look out the window. Up in the sky, the Blessed Mother favored him with a vision of the victory. Turning to his cardinals he said,

"Let us set aside business and fall on our knees in Thanksgiving to God, for he has given our fleet a great victory."