

Sisters of Bon Secours



Just Peace Formation in Nonviolence

February, 2017

Nonviolent Resistance

*Strategic, Powerful,
Transformative*

Jesus initiated a campaign of nonviolent resistance when he read from the prophet Isaiah in a synagogue announcing a year of jubilee. His healing of the bent woman and the man with the withered hand in synagogues were concrete actions of that proclamation, reclaiming the Sabbath from laws that burdened the most vulnerable. Jesus' direct nonviolent intervention purifying the temple confronted the powerful temple leaders with their injustice. Jesus' teaching, especially in the Sermon on the Mount, charted a third path of nonviolent intervention, a way to resist oppression without violence. In turning the right cheek, for example, one refuses to be backhanded on the left cheek while not striking back.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, described nonviolent resistance as "a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love." Nonviolent resistance (also known as civil resistance) is the

practice of strategic mobilization to shift power and transform conflict. It is a type of force that can better illuminate the human dignity of all actors, consistent with the teaching of Jesus as well as other major religious traditions. Nonviolent resistance includes a wide-variety of tactics, most effectively used within an organized campaign toward a specific goal. One characteristic of nonviolent campaigns is that the entire community can and often does participate. People of all ages, educational levels, classes are involved in some way. A recent study by Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephen finds that between 1900 and 2006, campaigns of nonviolent resistance were more than twice as effective as their violent counterparts.

Source: Catholic Nonviolence Initiative

FORMATION IN NONVIOLENCE

Six Principles for Nonviolence:

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.
2. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.
3. Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.
4. Nonviolence holds that suffering educates and reforms.
5. Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.
6. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in the spirit of Ghandi

*Which of these principles are operative in your life?
Which one might you adopt, learn about and practice?*

*Which of these principles were demonstrated at the
Women's March on January 21st?*

What gives you hope about Nonviolent Resistance?

By way of review...

In January we reflected on Pope Francis World Day of Peace message: **A Style of Politics for Peace**. *What quotes from this message most captured your heart? Stirred your commitment to active nonviolence?*

*We commit ourselves
to furthering Catholic
understanding and
practice of active
nonviolence on the
road to just peace.*

*Nonviolence and Just Peace
Conference, 2016*

