

# Sisters of Bon Secours



## Just Peace Formation in Nonviolence

An initiative of Bon Secours USA

November, 2016

### Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference

*An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence* was the document produced at the conclusion of the historic Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference held in Rome last April. The Sisters of Bon Secours USA endorsed this document as did many individual sisters.

Long before this conference took place and much closer to home, the Sisters of Bon Secours proclaimed at Chapter 2014 that for the next five years we would commit ourselves to "eliminate violence in all forms." What a bold, prophetic and countercultural statement this is! In an effort to deepen our response to this Chapter call, for the next few editions of "Just Peace" we will have an opportunity to reflect on the document in the hopes that it will find a place in our hearts, challenge us to re-

commit ourselves to the pursuit of active nonviolence and stimulate conversation that has the power to transform ourselves, our Congregation and our culture. The document begins by looking at our world today.

"We live in a time of tremendous suffering, trauma and fear linked to militarization, economic injustice, climate change, and a myriad of other specific forms of violence. In this context of normalized and systemic violence, those of us who stand in the Christian tradition are called to recognize the centrality of active nonviolence to the vision and message of Jesus; to the life and practice of the Catholic Church; and to our long term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet. We rejoice in the rich concrete experiences of people

engaged in work for peace around the world.

The time has come for our Church to be a living witness and to invest far greater human and financial resources in promoting a spirituality and practice of active nonviolence and in forming and training our Catholic communities in effective nonviolent practices. In all of this, Jesus is our inspiration and model."

*(An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence)*



*(For those who have not yet endorsed "The Appeal", [click here](#) to read and endorse.)*

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

*Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference, 2016*

*The Congregation of Bon Secours made a generous donation in support of this*

### FORMATION IN NONVIOLENCE

For your reflection and conversation

- What does the phrase "gospel nonviolence" mean to you?
- Where do you see the charism of Bon Secours reflected in the excerpt from "The Appeal"?
- Notice, sit with and feel the "normalized and systemic violence" that is part of our USA culture. Where do you see this? How does this aspect of our culture challenge you?
- What does it mean for you to personally commit to "end violence in all forms?"
- How can Bon Secours USA help the church promote nonviolence?

### By way of review...

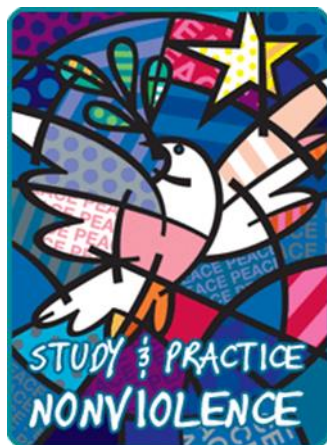
**This past month** we have been learning about and practicing Parker Palmer's five Habits of the Heart.

*What stirred in you as you watched the YouTubes on the Habits of the Heart?*

*Which habit are you choosing to cultivate?*

*What difference is this habit making in your life?*

<http://www.couragerenewal.org/habitsoftheheart/>



Nonviolence is not inaction.  
It is not discussion.  
It is not for the timid or weak.  
Nonviolence is hard work.  
It is the willingness to sacrifice.  
It is the patience to win.  
(Cesar Chavez)