



JUST Love

APRIL 2018



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

Did it ever occur to you that the Christian religion began with an act of civil disobedience against the Roman Empire? The gospel of Matthew tells us that Pilate ordered the tomb of Jesus to be sealed – not meaning cemented shut – but marked with the wax seal of the Roman Empire. As Scripture scholar Bill Wylie Kellerman observes, “Violent imperial rule is founded and sustained by Big Lie: the resurrection never was. We are not freed, we are not reconciled, we are not justified. Indeed, there is no freedom, there is no reconciliation, there is no justice. There is only power.” The resurrection of Jesus broke the seal...and broke the law. The rising of Jesus proclaimed that real power is found in reconciliation, forgiveness of enemies, in the life fostering rather than in death dealing; in foot washing and bread breaking. Easter 2018 calls us again to resist the powers of death and to proclaim resurrection in word and work – the invincible victory of life.



RESURRECTION RESISTANCE

Fr. Terrence Moran

Nuclear proliferation is a key element of Empire’s Big Lie. As the great war resister Philip Berrigan said, “Nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth; to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them, is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself.”

You may have seen the news that, because of a new escalation of nuclear proliferation and threats, the Union of

Atomic Scientists has moved the hand on the “Doomsday Clock” to 2 minutes to midnight. The failure of world leaders to address the largest threats to humanity’s future is lamentable—but that failure can be reversed. It is two minutes to midnight, but the Doomsday Clock has ticked away from midnight in the past, and during the next year, the world can again move it further from apocalypse. Here’s a few things you can do to promote nuclear abolition and a just peace:



Watch the trailer of the film *The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bombs* –stories of nonviolent resistance to nuclear war by Catholics and other people of good will <https://vimeo.com/229424880>



Learn about ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 <http://www.icanw.org/>



Join the *Don’t Bank on the Bomb Campaign* which encourages banks to divest from any company dealing with nuclear weapons or armaments of any kind <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/>



Protect the Hudson Catskill Watershed from the devastating effects of the nuclear fuel chain through the Indian Point Campaign <https://www.clearwater.org/ea/indian-point-campaign/>



Read papers or watch videos from the Vatican sponsored *Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference* held in Rome April 11-13, 2016 <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>



Join us Saturday, April 21, 9:30-12:30 Room 110
No Innocent Bystanders:
Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice
Christopher J. Doucot,
Hartford Catholic Worker



Sr. Barbara Conroy (bottom left) joins in a communal banner making project under the direction of workshop presenter Jackie Allen-Doucot (top left).

On March 14 a group of Sisters of Charity and friends gathered for a program “Art in the Service of Peace and Justice,” part of our Lenten series, directed by Jackie Allen-Doucot of the Hartford, CT Catholic Worker. The participants worked on a banner together, made their own social justice posters, and made buttons with social justice themes and images. Jackie reminded us of the power of images to change hearts and the potential of art-making to build community and to open up our imaginations to the possibility of a better world.



Sr. Peggy Fitzgibbons and Fr. Terry Moran participate in the button making project.

1 Easter Sunday “Let us accept the grace of Christ’s resurrection! Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”

~ Pope Francis, 2013.

4 Assassination of Martin Luther King (1968) “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

9 Feast of the Annunciation “But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions courage... Consent, courage unparalleled, opened her utterly.”
Denise Levertov

12 Yom Shoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day

22 Earth Day. This year’s theme is *End Plastic Pollution*:

- Stop using plastic straws, even in restaurants.



- Use a reusable produce bag.
- Buy boxes instead of bottles.
- Purchase food, like cereal, pasta, and rice from bulk bins and fill a reusable bag or container.

25 Rogation Day – In Catholic tradition, fields were blessed today in preparation for the planting season. Go outside and bless your yard or garden with water.

29 Feast of St. Catherine of Siena “We’ve had enough of exhortations to be silent! Cry out with a hundred thousand tongues. I see that the world is rotten because of silence.”

30 Anniversary of the death (2016) of Jesuit peace maker Daniel Berrigan “The sponsors of war closely resemble the weapons they create. And smart bombs, depleted uranium, land mines, rockets and tanks, rather than protect ‘widows and orphans and strangers at the gate,’ are designed precisely to create ‘widows and orphans,’ to transform strangers into enemies and enemies into corpses.”



“When Christ, rising from the death after being executed for nonviolent resistance against violent imperial injustice, grasps the hands of Adam and Eve, he created a parable of possibility and a metaphor of hope for all of humanity’s redemption.”

~ John Dominic Crossan

A Blessed Easter from the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity!