



# An Idea Whose Time has Passed: Just War April 27, 2016

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME  
HAS PASSED:  
“JUST WAR”

---

**SPEAKER:** MEL DUNCAN  
CO-FOUNDER, NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

Mel Duncan, co-founder of Nonviolent Peaceforce, will present on his recent trip to the Vatican where he was one of eighty peace leaders evaluating “Just War” theory. Join the conversation and be part of reintroducing the power of nonviolent action to the world.

**WED. APRIL 27TH | 7:00 PM**  
Jackman Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis, MN  
Refreshments will be provided

---

This event is hosted by:  
PLYMOUTH GLOBAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE &  
NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE



# Context



- Past ten years brutal for civilians caught in violent conflict. Today, more people are affected by conflict and disaster, more frequently, and for longer than in previous decades. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection has nearly doubled in the past decade, from an average of 30 to 40 million people per year to an average of 50 to 70 million people per year.

OCHA Financial Tracking Service,  
as of 25 September 2015.



# Context

## Panel's Warning on Climate Risk: Worst Is Yet to Come

UN Intergovernmental Panel  
on Climate Change

violent conflict over  
land,  
water  
or other resources.



# Perpetual War





# World War in Installments

---



- In response to what is a global epidemic of violence, which Pope Francis has labeled a “world war in installments”, we are being called to invoke, pray over, teach and take decisive action.

Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International on April 11-13, 2016 in Rome.



# Pope Francis

---



- Humanity needs to renew all the best available tools to help the men and women of today to fulfill their aspirations for justice and peace.





Jesus lived a nonviolent life, taught it and  
died it.





Put your sword back into its place; for all who  
take the sword will perish by the sword.





# Presence

---



The most  
precious gift we  
can offer others  
is our  
presence.

Thich Nhat Hanh



**Only now is human consciousness evolved  
enough to think and act this way.**





# Mairead Maguire

- Nonviolence is about love and relationships...The Just War Theory is wrong. It is a phony piece of theology...We reject the militarization of our world.



# Maria Stephan

- Based upon her research of 323 civil uprisings in the world between 1900-2006, Maria Stephan of the U.S Institute of Peace , shared today with the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference in Rome, "Not only are there alternatives to violence and war. There are very effective alternatives to violence and war."



# John Dear



- For 1,700 years the church has rejected Jesus. This policy has completely failed. 'Love your enemies,' is the most political sentence in the Bible.





The option for nonviolence always comes at a cost,  
never short term, a long journey.  
Bishop Kevin Dowling, South Africa

---



# Marie Dennis

---

- As long as we keep saying we can do it with military force, we will not invest the creative energy, the deep thinking, the financial and human resources in creating or identifying the alternatives that actually could make a difference.





# Just Peace Rooted in Shalom.

- is not merely the absence of violence but the presence of social, economic, and political conditions that sustain peace and human flourishing and prevent conflicts from turning violent or returning to violence.
- Rose Berger





# . Bishop John Baptist Adama, Uganda

---



- War is a lie because it destroys what it seeks to defend.

# Process



# **An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence**

- We believe that there is no “just war.”



Too often the “just war theory” has been used to endorse rather than prevent or limit war. Suggesting that a “just war” is possible also undermines the moral imperative to develop tools and capacities for nonviolent transformation of conflict.

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 that spirit we commit ourselves to furthering Catholic understanding and practice of active nonviolence on the road to just peace. As would-be disciples of Jesus, challenged and inspired by stories of hope and courage in these days, we call on the Church we love to:



continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence. In particular, we call on Pope Francis to share with the world an encyclical on nonviolence and Just Peace;

integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life, including the sacramental life, and work of the Church through dioceses, parishes, agencies, schools, universities, seminaries, religious orders, voluntary associations, and others;

promote nonviolent practices and strategies (e.g., nonviolent resistance, restorative justice, trauma healing, unarmed civilian protection, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding strategies);



initiate a global conversation on nonviolence within the Church, with people of other faiths, and with the larger world to respond to the monumental crises of our time with the vision and strategies of nonviolence and Just Peace;

no longer use or teach “just war theory”;  
continue advocating for the abolition of war  
and nuclear weapons;

lift up the prophetic voice of the church to challenge unjust world powers and to support and defend those nonviolent activists whose work for peace and justice put their lives at risk.





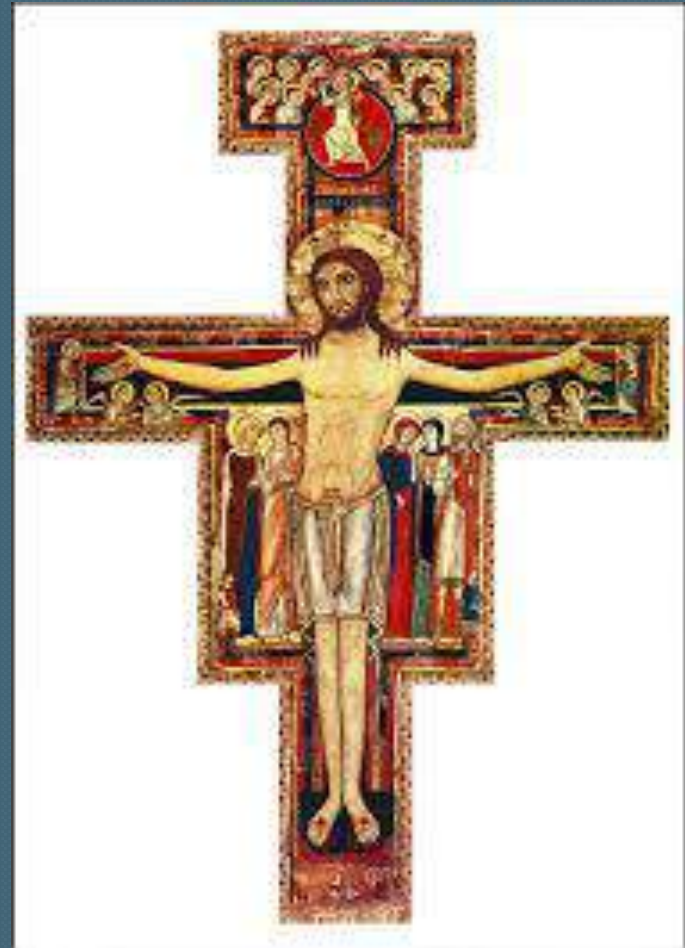
# Did the Vatican Just Throw Out Its Just War Doctrine?

---



# Assisi

- *Francis go and repair my house which is falling completely into ruin.*



# What will it take?





**Future reformations can come from the inside out and from the bottom up, in a positive, nonviolent way**



# The toothpaste is out of the tube.

**UNARMED  
STRATEGIES MUST  
BE AT THE  
FOREFRONT OF UN  
EFFORTS TO  
PROTECT  
CIVILIANS.**





# Ordinary People



Abolition  
Anti-Apartheid  
Human Rights  
Restrictions on child  
labor  
Rapid spread of anti-  
colonialism  
Ban on atmospheric  
nuclear testing  
Successive waves of the  
democracy  
Climate action



# Co-creators

---



The multiverse is  
creating all the time.

We are immersed in  
that creation as co-  
creators.

Serve what is seeking  
to emerge.

# Co-creators

---



The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# Co-creators

---



I do dimly perceive that whilst all around me is ever changing, ever dying, there is underlying all that change a living power that changes not that holds all together. That creates, dissolves and recreates...And is this power malevolent or benevolent? I see it as purely benevolent. For I do see in the midst of death, life persists.

Gandhi

# Ordinary People

Abolition

Anti-Apartheid

Human Rights

Restrictions on child  
labor

Rapid spread of anti-  
colonialism

Ban on atmospheric  
nuclear testing

Successive waves of  
democracy

Climate action

**End War**





# Lighting the Darkness

---



- “Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement. ....get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted.  
— Abraham Joshua Heschel