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 peer leaders examining “Just War” theory at the commission and be part of reimagining the power of nonviolent action in 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 co-hosted by:
Plymouth Global Conferences Committee
Nonviolent Peaceforce
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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."
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
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.
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
War is a lie because it destroys what it seeks to defend.
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?
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.
UNARMED STRATEGIES MUST BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF UN EFFORTS TO PROTECT CIVILIANS.
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
The multiverse is creating all the time.

We are immersed in that creation as co-creators.

Serve what is seeking to emerge.
The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
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
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Anti-Apartheid
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Climate action
End War
“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