



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: October 4, 2017

Holy Cross Unites to Reject Violence, Affirm Nonviolent Ways of Jesus

Notre Dame, Indiana, United States — In a world reeling from violence, the leaders of the four Congregations of Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests signed a joint Statement on Nonviolence and Just Peace, declaring that “Jesus taught us to respond to violence with love and forgiveness,” and committing to abide by His words and example.

The statement calls the four Holy Cross Congregations to collaboratively take specific actions to reject violence in its multiple forms, including violent responses to conflict, particularly war and terrorism; denial of human and civil rights; economic and military policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality; degradation of natural resources and eco-systems; and violent and disrespectful political discourse.

According to the statement, the Holy Cross Family will collaborate in support of actions and policies that: promote nonviolent means of conflict resolution; disallow discrimination; generate an equitable economic system for all; foster a culture of global solidarity and Just Peace; and protect Earth and life in all its diversity.

The signing of the statement took place during a prayer service held as part of a meeting of the four general councils of Holy Cross, hosted by the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, October 2-4.

The statement was developed by the Holy Cross International Justice Office (HCIJO), which animates and unites the social justice work of the four congregations, serving impoverished and vulnerable people in 20 countries on five continents. By providing educational resources and action opportunities, the HCIJO works to develop a well-informed, unified, public Holy Cross voice able to impact critical justice issues of the times.

According to HCIJO director Sister Mary Turgi, CSC, “This joint commitment of the Holy Cross Congregations to nonviolence and Just Peace could not be more timely as we daily confront the rampant violence of our global realities. At this moment in history, it is imperative that all of us, at all levels of society, heed the call of Pope Francis to reject violence and pursue the path of peace, now and into the future.”

Family of Holy Cross Statement on Nonviolence and Just Peace

*Do not believe in violence; do not support violence.
It is not the Christian way. It is not the way of the Catholic Church.
Believe in peace and forgiveness and love; for they are of Christ.*

Saint John Paul II, “Apostolic Journey to Ireland, Holy Mass in Drogheda.” 29 September 1979

To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence.

Pope Francis, “Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace.” 1 January 2017

Violence is rampant in our global society, embedded in social, economic, and cultural systems; and expressed in myriad forms such as marginalization and oppression, military conflict and terrorism, climate change and environmental degradation, inequality and scarcity, and interpersonal aggression.

Yet, just as fire does not extinguish fire, we recognize that “violence is not the cure for our broken world.”¹ Rather, by words and example, Jesus taught us to respond to violence with love and forgiveness.

Therefore, we
Marianites of Holy Cross,
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,
Sisters of Holy Cross, and
Sisters of the Holy Cross

affirm that

- Nonviolence is at the heart of the message of Jesus.
- Nonviolence is intrinsic to right relationship with all creation, and
- Nonviolent systemic change requires contemplative, innovative responses to social problems and conflicts.

Accordingly, we reject violence in its multiple forms.
We support actions and policies that

- Promote nonviolent means of conflict resolution,
- Disallow discrimination of any kind,
- Generate an equitable economic system for all,
- Foster a culture of global solidarity and Just Peace, and
- Protect Earth and Life in all its diversity.

We oppose actions and policies that legitimate

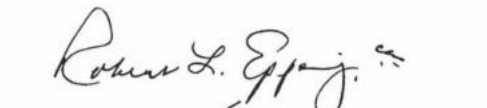
- Violent responses to conflicts, particularly war and terrorism,
- Denial of human and civil rights,
- Economic and military policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality,
- Degradation of natural resources and ecosystems, and
- Violent and disrespectful political discourse.

We acknowledge that the nonviolent way of Jesus challenges us to

- Examine the quality of our interpersonal relationships,
- Own the complexity inherent in our struggle to live without violence,
- Engage in profound interior transformation,
- Counter a culture of individualism, greed, exclusion, and exploitation,
- Embrace interdependence, diversity, and commitment to the common good, and
- Lead by unifying.

Marianites of Holy Cross,
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,
Sisters of Holy Cross, and
Sisters of the Holy Cross


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