

# Sisters of Bon Secours



## Just Peace Formation in Nonviolence

May, 2017

### Resurrection Means Nonviolence by John Dear

For me, resurrection is everything. It's the lynchpin of Christianity, the key to nonviolence, the hope we hold dear, and the possibility of a new world of peace. In other words, with the resurrection of the nonviolent Jesus, anything is possible, even the abolition of war, poverty, nuclear weapons and environmental destruction.

As a Christian, I've always believed that. Resurrection actually makes sense--but only from a Gandhian/Kingian hermeneutic of nonviolence. If Jesus was the most active person of nonviolence in the history of the world, as Gandhi insisted, then it makes sense that after teaching and practicing nonviolence perfectly, and being brutally crushed and executed by the ruling authorities and empire, he would be raised to new life, that his way of nonviolence would be vindicated for all eternity.

What astonishes me the most is that he comes back without a trace of bitterness, resentment, hard feelings, or vengeance. When he appears to his community, they rejoice, and he offers them his gift of peace. If possible, he is even more peaceful, more nonviolent. This peacemaking risen Christ sends them forth into world of war and violence on the journey of peace and nonviolence, and they take up the mission.

What does this mean for me, for us? As followers of the nonviolent Jesus, we want to welcome his resurrection gift of peace, and live in that peace for the rest of our lives. Resurrection means having nothing to do with death, and the metaphors of death, war, nuclear weapons, corporate greed, environmental destruction, and violence. The risen Jesus has not a drop of violence or death in him. Resurrection means nonviolence.

As his followers, we try to practice that new life of peace by being as nonviolent as we can to ourselves, one another, and all creation. We know with the risen Jesus that our survival is already guaranteed, so we choose not to live in fear, but to go forward in peace, hope, and love, resisting the structures of nonviolence through Jesus' methodology of active nonviolence.

*(Excerpt: Resurrection Means Nonviolence)*

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

*Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference, 2016*

### By way of review...

During the season of Lent the JPIC Committee suggested we use ***A Journey with Gospel Nonviolence*** published by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. Some suggested Lenten practices included:

- Fasting from media that supports violence
- Letting go of habits that prevent us from listening without being defensive and speaking without judgment
- Putting "love your enemy" into practice
- Growing in peace by counting your blessings each day rather than your disappointments.

What practices are helping you grow as a practitioner of active nonviolence?

At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love.  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### FORMATION IN NONVIOLENCE

"Nonviolence does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent but to win friendship and understanding. The nonviolent resister must often express his protest through noncooperation or boycotts, but he realizes that these are not ends themselves; they are merely means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness." (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

### ***What A Policy of Real Solidarity with the Syrian People Looks Like***

James Trimaro, Senior Editor of YES! Magazine, offers a nonviolent alternative to the crisis in Syria. Read more: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/what-would-a-policy-of-real-solidarity-with-the-syrian-people-look-like-20170408>