

Promotion of Peace

That people everywhere will choose to solve differences with compassion instead of conflict.

This month we are asked to think about all those affected by conflict, and to consider how we might be called to be peacemakers in our daily lives.



Country Focus: Yemen

Once made rich by spices and scents, Yemen, known as “Fortunate Arabia” by the Romans, is now home to one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Torn apart by two warring factions, the people of Yemen have been forced to live with the destruction of war for more than three years. Food, clean water and health care are all extremely hard to find. One fourth of all Yemeni children have not been able to attend school since the war began. Two million people have lost their homes. Basic food prices have increased almost 100%, and the number of children suffering from severe malnutrition has increased by 90%.

Because the official religion of Yemen is Islam, there are only four parishes and about 3,000 Christians in the entire country. While small, the Catholic Church in Yemen nevertheless supports its people. The Missionaries of Charity in particular have been instrumental in aiding the poor. You can help support their work by praying for the people of Yemen.



Promoting Knowledge of Faith

God's Word for Mission

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matt 5:9)

“It is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace.” (Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 9/1/2013)

Education for Community Life

A Saint for Mission: St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi is many things: the patron saint of animals, the namesake of our current pope, Pope Francis, and the founder of his own religious order, the Franciscans. He was also a great champion of peace.

Born to a wealthy family, St. Francis of Assisi decided to give up his money and instead live a life of poverty in response to God's call to follow him. In living a life dedicated to God, St. Francis of Assisi tried to model peace in all his actions. He always began his preaching by praying for the peace of those gathered. He lived in harmony with God's creation. He cared for lepers, treating them with kindness and respect, instead of avoiding them so he didn't catch their disease. He also encouraged peace among his friars, the Poor Clares, a women's religious order, and the Secular Franciscans, an order modeled after his teachings for lay people.

St. Francis of Assisi can help us be promoters of peace, too. We can pray for peace and we can ask God to help us promote peace in our daily lives. As you think about your family and school, ask St. Francis of Assisi to help you find ways to bring God's peace to others. You can also remember St. Francis of Assisi each year on Oct. 4, his feast day.

Dignity of the Human Person



Murad Subay with one of his wall paintings

Dignity of the Human Person is a Catholic social teaching that emphasizes the importance of protecting dignity of all by avoiding armed conflict, genocide, and attacks on civilians. The act of peacemaking is a way to promote human dignity during conflict. For many of us, when we hear the words “achieving peace” we think of world leaders meeting at summits or at the United Nations. There are many ways of promoting peace, especially in war torn countries.

The current military conflict in Yemen has caused the death of over 10,000 civilians and possibly the worst humanitarian crisis of starving children in over 100 years. The conflict has devastated the capital of Sana’a. Buildings

are severely damaged with bullet and mortar holes. And walls are marked with graffiti messages of confrontation and hatred by both sides of the conflict.

As an act of peacemaking, artist Murad Subay wanted to encourage peace and unity by erasing graffiti of hate from walls in Sana’a by covering them with non-violent and colorful messages and images. Ugly black and white graffiti was being covered by the joy and passion of color. He encouraged people, especially young people, to take to the streets and express themselves on these walls. Subay used Facebook and other social media to encourage this peacemaking effort. Now colorful images can be seen throughout Sana’a.

Yemeni Artist Promotes Peaceful Graffiti: [Click Here](#)>>

1. Have you ever seen graffiti with a negative message? How did it make you feel?
2. Have you seen beautiful and colorful murals and art? How did they make you feel?
3. By covering up graffiti, Murad Subay was able to help people think about peace. Why do you think that worked? Would you have listened to his call to paint over the graffiti?
4. What can you do in your life to cover over angry, hurtful messages (gossiping, bullying, emails, etc) with positive, compassionate messages?



Mission Petitions

- ✚ Let us pray for the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language or culture
- ✚ Let us pray that all countries may become places of peace
- ✚ Let us pray that the global human family may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and in need
- ✚ Let us pray for government leaders worldwide, that they may work for an end to violence and war

Dear Lord,

Make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Amen.