

Stop the Hate

**Sisters of the Holy Cross
Prayer Service to Commemorate
"Stop the Hate" Day**



October 6, 2006
from the Congregation Justice Committee

Stop the Hate!

Opening Song

Choose an appropriate song

(Suggestions: Let there Be Peace on Earth, Dona Nobis Pacem, World Peace Prayer, Seek Ye First)

First Reading

Luke 6:35-38, 41-42

To you who hear me, I say: “Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great in heaven. You’ll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

“Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure, packed down, shaken together and running over. For the amount you measure out is the amount you’ll be given back.

“How can you look at the splinter in another’s eye and yet miss the plank in your own? How can you say to another, ‘Let me remove the splinter from your eye,’ but fail to see the board lodged in your own? Remove the board from your own eye first; then you’ll see clearly enough to remove the splinter from the eye of another.”

— from *The Inclusive New Testament*

Silent Reflection

Second Reading *One Humanity, One Dialogue*



Today's world requires us to accept the oneness of humanity. In the past, isolated communities could afford to think of one another as fundamentally separate. Some could even exist in total isolation. But today, whatever happens in one region eventually affects many other areas. In the context of our new interdependence, self-interest clearly lies in considering the interest of others.

Many of the world's problems and conflicts arise because we have lost sight of the basic humanity that binds us all together as a human family. We tend to forget that despite the diversity of race, religion, ideology, and so forth, people are equal in their basic wish for peace and happiness.

The challenge before us, therefore, is to make our new century a century of dialogue and of peaceful coexistence. In human societies there will always be differences of views and interests. But the reality today is that we are all interdependent and have to coexist on this small planet. Therefore, the only sensible and intelligent way of resolving differences and clashes of interests, between individuals or nations, is through dialogue.

— *The Dalai Lama*

Silent Reflection/Sharing

- What are some of the ways you have personally come in contact with hatred? Have you ever been the object of hatred, or the perpetrator of hatred and division?
- Hatred and fear can lead to violence on a massive scale, as we see and hear in our world and national news every day. How can we, wherever we are, begin to bring different kinds of people together

to break down fear and expel hatred? What are some local organizations that try to bring people together and break down hate? Would you consider joining and/or supporting those organizations?

Intercessions

Response: Lead us in your truth, O God; teach us your paths

We pray for a world where all people respect and care for one another, where love overcomes all hate and fear. (*Response*)

We pray for a world where all children are taught about cooperation and community building at an early age; where they learn that acceptance and respect can overcome prejudice and discrimination. (*Response*)

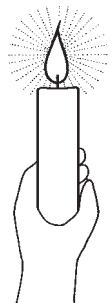
We pray for a world where difference, tradition, culture and spiritual roots are honored; where the goal of living in a peaceful community is as important as clean air, clean water and protecting all species on earth. (*Response*)

We pray for a world where political leaders encourage respect for diversity instead of exploiting differences for political gains. (*Response*)

We pray for a world where leaders of all faiths denounce absolutism and fundamentalism and where all expressions of faith are respected and revered. (*Response*)

We pray for a world where the oppression of minorities is unacceptable everywhere, and where understanding and peacemaking are shared priorities and societal goals. (*Response*)

We pray for all the hopes, dreams and needs which we now express silently to God. (*Response*)

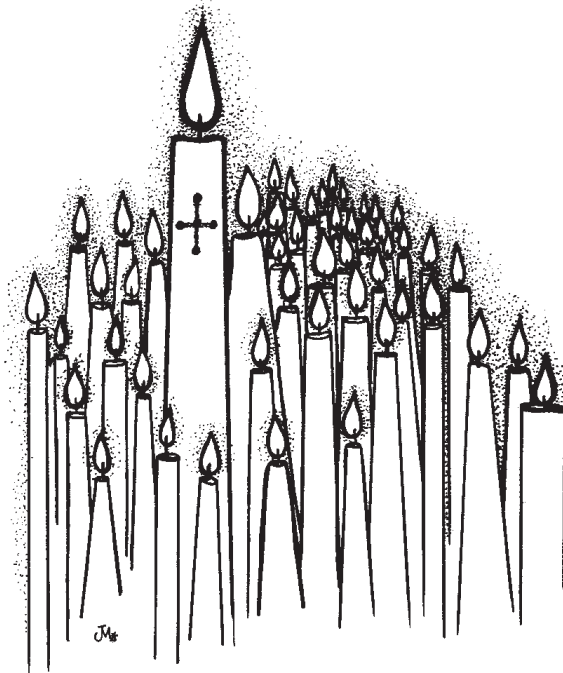


Closing Prayer *Recite together*

O God of loving community, One God from three persons, we ask you to bless our attempts to imitate your mystery by being one community from many persons.

We are one family from many members, one household from many individuals. We are one neighborhood from many households, and one state from many neighborhoods. We are one nation from many states, and one world from many nations. And we are all your children, O God.

God of unity and diversity, be with us now and in the future to help us become one with one another and with you. Amen.



Closing Song

This Is My Song

Finlandia by Jean Sibelius



1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



A song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
Your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,



Here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
And hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions.



With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
My - self I give you; let your will be done.

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Music: FINLANDIA by Jean Sibelius.