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Dear Friends,

In his 1 January 2017 Message for the World Day of Peace [Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace](#), Pope Francis calls all Christians to “make active nonviolence our way of life.” This requires examination of the quality of our interpersonal relationships as well as innovative, creative responses to social problems and conflicts (CSC Corporate Stands on Nonviolence).

We invite you to begin the New Year with a time of prayer and meditation on the Pope’s message and the depth of nonviolence in your own life using the reflection that follows.

Wishing you blessings of peace in the New Year,

Mary and Dana

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary & Dana".

2017 World Day of Peace Reflection

In his 1 January 2017 Message for the World Day of Peace [Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace](#), Pope Francis challenges all Christians to banishing violence from our hearts, words, and deeds, become nonviolent people and build nonviolent communities that care for our common home. We invite you to begin this prayer by meditatively

reading the Pope's message and then reflecting on the following questions:

1. How can we learn to acknowledge and confront the violence within ourselves and resist retaliation?
2. In what ways do we inadvertently disregard and discard others and harm the environment? How might we intentionally live differently and choose solidarity?
3. What would it mean for us to "dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and become nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home"? What changes would this require in us as individuals and in our societies?

Closing Prayer Suggestions

"Prayer for Conversion to Gospel Nonviolence"

Blessed are the peacemakers, you said,
for they shall be called children of God.

We ask you to forgive us
for the times we've caused division or
misunderstanding in our communities.

We know that communion is not
Achieved through violence,
but through constant conversion.

We ask the grace to not speak ill,
not criticize, not to be sowers of strife,
so that peace can reign in our hearts.

From this conversion of the heart,
lead us to a conversion in actions.
First in our hearts, then in our world
incarnate the power of gospel nonviolence.

Give us the imagination to overcome
all forms of violence with creative nonviolence.

Revive in our church's theology of peace
the nonviolent message of Jesus,

That once again our churches may be
centers of learning for nonviolence and just
peace, centers of conversion from violence to
peace, and from loneliness to joy. Amen.

*--Adapted from [Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, "World Day
of Peace 2017"](#)*

Additional prayer resources available from [Catholics Confront Global
Poverty](#).

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