

A Church at the Service of Peace

Readers 1–3. We are called to be a Church at the service of peace.

Reader 1. At the center of the Church's teaching on peace and at the center of all Catholic social teaching are the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person. The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world; all the Church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry.

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Reader 2. Christians approach the problem of war and peace with fear and reverence. God is the Lord of life, and so each human life is sacred; modern warfare threatens the obliteration of human life on a previously unimaginable scale. The sense of awe and "fear of the Lord" which former generations felt in approaching these issues weighs upon us with new urgency.

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Reader 3. We believe that the Church, as a community of faith and social institution, has a proper, necessary and distinctive part to play in the pursuit of peace. Because peace, like the Kingdom of God, is both a divine gift and a human work, the Church should continually pray for the gift and share in the work.

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