

Artisans of Peace: Ongoing Action and Study

Gospel Nonviolence Working Group, AUSCP

May 11, 2021



It is now more than a year since AUSCP passed the 'Artisans of Peace' resolution. During this time the Gospel Nonviolence Working Group has offered multiple opportunities for formation in 'Just Peace-Making' and invited our membership to be engaged in action that promotes that vision. At the June Assembly, AUSCP will prioritize its vision and praxis for the future. Whatever the outcome of that discernment, we assure you that our Working Group will continue to be committed to the work of active nonviolence and peacemaking.

Thank you for your active participation in our ministry of peacemaking this past year.

Gratefully,

John Heagle and the Core Team of the GNV Working Group

In the meantime, here are some vital opportunities for further action and study during the summer months:

Actions for Peacemaking:

- Sign the NCR Ad: "Tell our Catholic President and Members of Congress: Start Now to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons!". Deadline May 15: <https://ssl.charityweb.net/paxchristimdcdb/startnowad.htm>
- Sign the petition urging PNC Bank to 'Stop Banking the Bomb'. More than 600 people and institutions have signed this petition, including AUSCP as an organization, but we also need more individual members and their friends to take action as well: <http://www.abetterpncbank.org/>
- Become involved with ICAN (The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, <https://www.icanw.org/>). They have several important actions that you can join:
 - Work toward getting the United States to sign the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
 - Get your State to sign TPNW.
 - Work toward advocating for your City to sign TPNW. Patrick Henry has made available a model of documentation, including letters, etc., that were successful in getting Walla Walla, WA to sign on. These documents are available to anyone who requests them (contact: johnlheagle@gmail.com.)
 - Petition your Congressperson to sign the Parliamentary Pledge: <https://www.icanw.org/>
- Join Pax Christi USA (<https://twincitiesnonviolent.org/>) and join a local chapter in your city or state or consider starting a Pax Christi chapter in your area.

- Introduce a resolution in your parish community (perhaps through the parish council) to support Pope Francis, Pax Christi, ICAN, CNI (Catholic Nonviolent Initiative), Back from the Brink, and other international peace groups in supporting the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- Write to your diocesan pastoral council, priest's association, and bishop asking them to support Pope Francis, Pax Christi, ICAN, CNI, Back From the Brink, and other international peace groups in supporting TPNW.
- Take time to study the remarkable story and witness of **Ben Salmon**, the first Catholic to stand against the so-called 'Just War Theory' during WWI, at profound personal cost in his own life, as he confronted not only the US government but also the Catholic Church and its leadership. Sign the petition asking that his cause be considered for sainthood. And spread the message about his life and witness: <https://www.bensalmon.org/>
- Discover the remarkable peace work of Twin Cities Nonviolent (<https://twincitiesnonviolent.org/>), under the leadership of Fr. Harry Bury and his gifted collaborators. This includes opportunities for training in nonviolent methods of witness and resistance.

Study, Prayer, and Reflection for Peacemaking:

- Jack Gilroy (Veterans for Peace and active in GNV Working Group) has written an article supporting the banning of weaponized and surveillance drones. This is a valuable resource for study and action, published now in two different sources:
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/why-i-support-treaty-ban-weaponized-and-surveillance-drones>
<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2021/05/10/ban-killer-drones-international-grassroots-movement-to-ban-weaponized-drones-launched-part-1/>
- Article on the Church's slow emergence from Just War theory and practice:
<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/vietnam-century-catholic-teaching-war-and-peace>
- Read *Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World*, Rose Marie Berger, Ken Butigan, Judy Coode and Marie Dennis, eds). This book is the outcome of the 2016 Vatican International Conference on nonviolence and Just Peace, as well as the ongoing task of peacemaking that confronts all of us.