Nonviolent Lives, Nonviolent Church, Nonviolent World:
The Spiritual Journey of Active Nonviolence Today

Ken Butigan
DePaul University / Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service
“I will show you a more excellent way...”
--- *St. Paul*

“I will show you a more excellent way of love in action...”

--- *Pax Christi Michigan*
“Start a revolution, shake things up. The world is deaf; you have to open its ears.”

-- Pope Francis
JUSTICE FOR DAUNTE WRIGHT
“That’s what the Church should do...”

-- Fr. Marcel Okwara
• Take nonviolent action at the church
• Reach out to officials
• Overhaul the police
• Have Catholics persistently discussing racism and police violence
• Stand up
• Be counted
• Do what Jesus wants us to do
Nonviolent People Power Movement, 1986
“...East German Organizing...”
Rosa Parks
Nonviolence and Just Peace:
Contributing to the Catholic Understanding of and Commitment to Nonviolence
Rome, April 11-13, 2016

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL
PONTIFICIUM CONSILII DE IUSTITIA ET PACE
Love in the time of coronavirus

Now more than ever nonviolent energy is urgently required to respond to the world of hurt that the COVID-19 tsunami is leaving in its wake.

Ken Butigan    March 16, 2020
“The greatest social movement in human history is coming…”
How do we start a revolution?

What do we mean by “revolution”? 
We need another paradigm. A paradigm showing us “a more excellent way.”

“The new creation has come--the old has gone, the new is here!”
(Second Corinthians 5:17)
“...find some people you can pray with and march with...”

-- Daniel Berrigan
“Nonviolence is the love that does justice.”

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.
Violence is justice for some
achieved by
promoting the lie +
concealing the truth

Nonviolence is justice for all
achieved by
revealing the lie +
promoting the truth

-- Phillip Bradley, NonviolenceWorks
• Recognizing our own violent tendencies

• Acknowledging that we live in a culture of violence

• Renouncing violence

• Practicing the nonviolent option

• Resisting the systems of violence
Nonviolence is the way God wants us to live...
Violence is utterly opposed to the Gospel.

Nonviolence is at the heart of the Gospel.
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE

FRANCIS

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE

FIFTIETH WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 JANUARY 2017

Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace

1. At the beginning of this New Year, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to the world’s peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious, civic and community leaders. I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity. Especially in situations of conflict, let us respect this, our “deepest dignity”,[1] and make active nonviolence our way of life.
“In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.”
The Parish Checklist

- Liturgy and preaching
- Sacraments: baptism, reconciliation, holy communion, confirmation, holy orders, marriage, anointing of the sick
- RCIA and ongoing faith formation (study groups, retreats, workshops)
- Clergy, pastoral team, and parish council trained in conflict resolution and restorative justice
- Where applicable, the parish school—students, teachers, administrators, parents
- Ministries
- Work in the larger neighborhood, city, world
Biblical, Theological, Ethical, Pastoral and Strategic Dimensions of Nonviolence
“Start a revolution, shake things up.

The world is deaf; you have to open its ears.”

-- Pope Francis
“"I have a very difficult job, pray for me. ...And if there are some among you who do not pray, then send me good vibes.”

-- Pope Francis
Thank you!