



Project Peace...

Imagining a World without War



March 2015

Many Moments of Learning

It's not quite here, but perhaps March has never been anticipated so keenly during my lifetime. This frigid February has brought about new feelings for me.

I know I'm not the only person in this corner.

The work of Project Peace has gone on—no “frozen” muscles here! January had emphasis on Guantanamo, and February felt like a training month for me. The children's nonviolence skills classes went on whenever there were classes at Tiffin Middle School and Calvert, and I continued to teach about 6 classes of yoga each week as a great way to promote health and inner peace. Hopefully these classes have helped.

In addition, however, I experienced a great conversation with Ken Butigan from the national office of Campaign Nonviolence whose optimism and creative mind excited me to keep dreaming up new ways to promote non-violence skills through the students. The work of Project Peace is never completed. I know this in a more profound way these days.

Then there was the transformation training for 35 of us Sisters here at St. Francis. This training centered on working through conflicts without judgment. All of us are urged to speak to each person as though for the first time and to always go to that person wanting to be influenced .

Exercising these two skills alone will wipe away biases and prejudgments before the

actual encounter and will give great honor to the other person in conversation—even to the “enemy.” I left these days of training so very GRATEFUL.

Becoming a Peacemaker—Inside and Out

Gandhi finally got it when he understood peacemaking involves suffering.!

Martin Luther King lost the favor of friends and president when he saw the connection between African Americans suffering at home and all the people suffering the effects of war in Vietnam! He then spoke out—loudly.

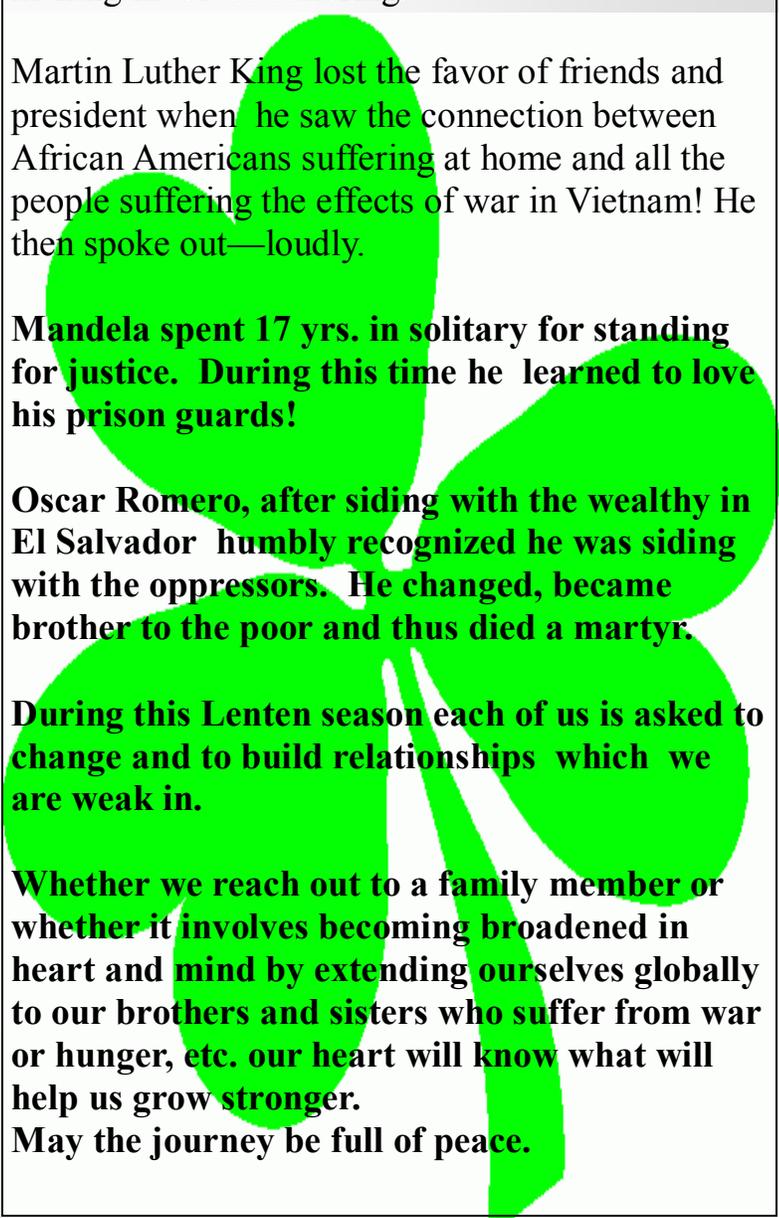
Mandela spent 17 yrs. in solitary for standing for justice. During this time he learned to love his prison guards!

Oscar Romero, after siding with the wealthy in El Salvador humbly recognized he was siding with the oppressors. He changed, became brother to the poor and thus died a martyr.

During this Lenten season each of us is asked to change and to build relationships which we are weak in.

Whether we reach out to a family member or whether it involves becoming broadened in heart and mind by extending ourselves globally to our brothers and sisters who suffer from war or hunger, etc. our heart will know what will help us grow stronger.

May the journey be full of peace.



Recruitment Begins in Earnest for West Bank Delegation



<http://projectpeacetiffin.com/>

We invite you to join us this fall! From Sept. 14-24 Project Peace of the Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio will lead their annual delegation to the West Bank and Israel to promote understanding, community, and friendship.

Delegation Highlights:

- Meet with leaders of the nonviolent resistance at Bi'lin
- Learn about the Israeli Occupation from both sides of the Wall
- Meet with the Rabbis for Peace and a representative from the Knesset
- Stay at the Tent of Nations, Bethlehem, to witness settlements
- Meet with leaders from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths
- Work with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron
- Possibility of visit to Gaza
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Visit the Baka Valley to understand the importance of water to the region

Price of the delegation is \$2500-\$2800 and includes flight from Ohio, accommodations and meals, and transportation on the ground. Final decisions must be made by May, 2015.

For more info. call sr. Paulette Schroeder 419.447.0435 ext. 136.

Black Lives Matter

A new learning:

At a lecture on Feb. 20 at Terra Community College Professor Jelani Exum spoke on “Death Penalty on the Street.” She wants to test the hypothesis that if the same guaranteed safety measures are exercised on the streets as those which govern our U.S court systems, we will be better able to deal with tensions between the police officers and young African men.

Ms. Exum said there is only ONE side—we all have rights by the Constitution **and we all want to come home safely at the end of the day.**

It all seems so simple—honest conversation wherein all voices and lives are honored.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS:

Paul Chappell conducts Nonviolence Workshop Nov. 7-8 at St. Francis Spirituality Center.

Project Peace has a wonderful web site on which you can follow diverse events in the world. www.projectpeacetiffin.com

We also have a facebook page reaching 396 people. Would you bring it up to 400? **This is a big way to support Project Peace.** www.facebook.com/projectpeacetiffin

Books to consider reading:

Book Thief -Markus Zusak Shows the German people during the Nazi regime—what a difference when there is an inside look into the actual German people’s lives.

Reading Lolita in Tehran-
Azar Nafisi

A remarkable exploration of resilience in the face of tyranny

Books we are reading in our book club