

L Professor McSorely, S. J. Lines of
Transmission

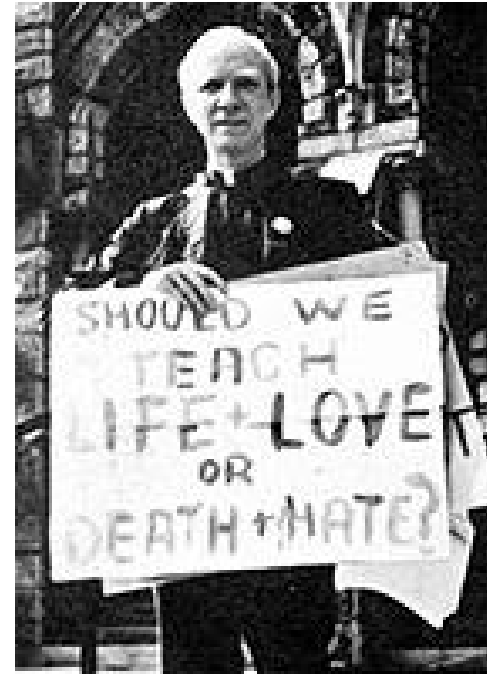
Print the cover on tan card stock. Print the picture on white card stock. Print the text on one page front and back. Fold.

Prof. Richard McSorley, S.J.

Georgetown University
1914-2002
Washington, D. C.

Life Lines

Lines of Transmission: Influences and Mentors



◆◆Fr. Richard (Dick) McSorley came to his understanding of Jesus' Nonviolent Love after he experienced the terrible problem of racism in the south. White people's "power over" black people clearly was not in line with, was not acceptable to or part of the life of Jesus. Dick McSorley knew all people were equal in God's eyes. Dominating power, power over other human beings had nothing to do with love.

◆◆The way Fr. McSorley fought racism had to be similar to the way Jesus would fight a problem. That way could have nothing to do with power over another human being, It could have nothing to do with force. But at this point Father McSorley hadn't started thinking about Gospel Nonviolence. In fact throughout all his time in Ridge, Maryland, 1948-1952, in the segregated parishes nonviolence was not thought about directly. It wasn't until years later, after Martin Luther King was active in the south that Richard McSorley began to understand nonviolence. But by now his real-life experiences had prepared him. He recognized the Truth of Nonviolent Love.

◆ From *My Path to Peace and Justice* p.84

In that next year, 1955, I read about Martin Luther King and the Alabama bus boycott. From that day on I followed everything he did

◆ *My Path to Peace and Justice* p 89.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. met with the Leadership Conference (for Civil Rights) on several occasions. (of which Fr. McSorley was part) That's where I first met Dr. King; his friendliness, intelligence, sense of humanity, and passion for justice were evident as I watched him talk informally with a few members following the meeting.

◆ *My Path to Peace and Justice* p 89.

During the early days of the civil rights struggle, I was impressed by the faith of Fr. Dan and Phil Berrigan. Dan, a fellow seminarian, introduced me to his younger brother, Phil, who had come to visit. Phil was planning to enter the Josephite Congregation, a community dedicated to serving the Negro people. Having no special interest in civil rights at that time, I never talked to Dan or Phil about the race question. By the 60' they were in the news as the most public Catholic clergy active for racial justice. . . Dan and Phil were the first Catholic priests I knew personally who risked their lives for the faith. In my estimation they, joined with

Martin Luther King, Jr., have been Christ figures for our times.

◆ *My Path to Peace and Justice* p 38

Once he (Dad) brought Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin of the Catholic Worker to our home to visit. At fifteen years of age, I hardly knew who they were, so they didn't impress me very much. Later in life when I developed a great appreciation for their work, I remembered that first meeting.

On one occasion, Dad took several of us children to the New York Catholic Worker. . . Years later I started the first Catholic Worker House in Washington, D.C.

◆ ◆ There are other experiences that influenced Dick. A comment by his father when Dick was very young stayed with Dick. The comment cut through the patriotism and propaganda that is a necessary part of militarism.

"I do remember a comment by Dad as we watched a military parade. 'If they would require the military to wear bloody aprons with a bloody knife stuck in their belts, then they wouldn't deceive people so much about what they are doing.'" Though I was very young and knew nothing about war, that statement impressed me.

My Path to Peace and Justice p 38.