

M Glossary A Booklet

Print on white paper.

Cut off the top portion of each page so each page is 8 1/2 x 8. Print green front and back cover from COVERS document and bind.

agape (ä-gä-pā)

- Christ-like love, nonviolent love, mercy
- Greek work with two parts
 - willingness to serve without wanting anything in return
 - willingness to suffer in necessary without wanting to hurt in return
 - willingness to reconcile without at the same time wanting to dominate
- mysterious power which is the only power that conquers evil and erases every trace of fear

When a man and woman get married they commit to loving each other with the same **agape**-love that the Christian chooses at baptism to have for all of God's children.

- • For adult level reading on agape see Fr. Emmanuel McCarthy's book *All Things Flee Thee for Thou Fleest Me*, Preamble.
(online at www.centerforchristiannonviolence.org > resources)

allegiance

- loyalty
- duty owed

Maximilian gave total loyalty and **allegiance** to God alone; he did not concern himself with the commands of the rulers which were against the teachings of Jesus.

antimilitarism

anti

- the opposite of, opposed to, or against

militarism

- of war, army, soldiering (the role or work of the soldier)
- the attitude that warring is the best way to reach a goal
or the plan to always be prepared for war

antimilitarism

- opposed to the attitude that warring is the best way to reach a goal
- opposed to the attitude that being prepared for war is good

The Catholic Worker movement professes an attitude referred to as **antimilitarism**: we must not carry out the deeds of killing or the domination of other peoples which is the opposite of the works of mercy, and the world's resources must be used to relieve the suffering of the poor rather than to produce armaments.

arms, armaments or to arm

- (n.) weapons
- (v.) to gather or supply with weapons

Boniface asked his companions to lay down their **arms** in imitation of the One they loved who taught His followers how to die but not how to kill.

boycott

- (n.) group action to create change by the refusal to buy, or use a product
- (v.) to refuse to be involved with a company or group as a way to show that company or group you seriously disagree with or object to something that it is doing

As long as the grape producers were using dangerous pesticides my family was part of the nation-wide **boycott**.

civil disobedience

civil

- pertaining to the state, the organized government, the social order or laws

dis

- not, lack, without, or neglect

obedience

- to follow, to fulfill, listen to

civil disobedience

- to intentionally disregard a law, demand or command of the government because that law is unjust or destructive to some aspect of the life of God and/or human beings

Dorothy Day and A. J. Muste would not let the fear and the false teaching behind the air-raid drills enter their lives; they committed **civil disobedience** by refusing to take cover when the air-raid sirens screeched. (See yellow folder for a photo of A. J. Muste and Dorothy Day discussing civil disobedience during the war in Vietnam.)

cloud of witnesses/communion of saints

cloud

- group or collection, gathering, great number

witnesses

- one or ones who saw, beholder, one who gives evidence

communion

- to be in a group, in a relationship with others, sharing, togetherness, the gathering together

cloud of witnesses/communion of saints

- serious followers of Jesus, true witnesses to Jesus' life and teachings

When I struggle with living the Truth of Nonviolent Love I remember the **communion of saints** who lived before me; I am strengthened by their example.

When I struggle with living the Truth of Nonviolent Love I remember the **cloud of witnesses** who lived before me; I am strengthened by their example.

community

- a group with a purpose of sharing life or specific parts of life together
- sharing a common identity
- usually involving serious discussions about what living the Christian life means
- can take many forms, such as living as closely as a family or simply sharing the same ideas and meeting together for conversation

Lanza Del Vasto started a **community** where the members share prayer, possessions, talents and make a promise to care for and love each other, to love their enemies and God who is nonviolent, merciful love.

confessor

- one who confesses, or admits the truth
- one who proclaims God's goodness and Presence even while being persecuted

Each Christian must ask him or herself, “Can I **confess** with joy the Truth of God's Love even while being persecuted like so many of the saints did?”

Maximus the **Confessor** sang God's praises with joy even while being persecuted—so filled with love was he!

conscientious objector(s)

conscientious

- to know from the inside of oneself that a particular action or thought is right or wrong; to be mindful of truth

objector

- to refuse, oppose, disobey or disagree with, to object to

conscientious objector

- refers to a person who refuses or objects to going to war because he or she knows from inside that war is wrong
- sometimes called a CO

While working at a Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp during World War II Gordon Zahn met many other **conscientious objectors** who had the courage to go against the pressure of family, friends and the government to join the war efforts.

Constantine (Emperor)

- Emperor of Rome during the years 306 through 337 who made Christianity legal

Though he was baptized just before he died and was somewhat accepting of Christianity during his life, historians tell us that to serve his own military and political needs **Emperor Constantine** killed members of his own family.

Constantinian Christianity

Constantinian

- refers to Emperor Constantine and his ways

Constantinian Christianity

- a kind of “Christianity” which began around the time of Emperor Constantine and is joined to and becomes part of the ruling worldly power (nation-state)—which justifies violence and accepts the rules and decisions of the state (or government) rather than following the nonviolent teachings of Jesus
- a kind of Christianity which lost Nonviolent Love—the part of Christianity which brings the true Presence of Jesus into the world

Fr. Emmanuel McCarthy has worked his whole life to help the Church turn away from **Constantinian Christianity** back to original Christianity which proclaims the Truth of Jesus’ Nonviolent Love of friend and enemy.

When the Church accepted **Constantinian Christianity** with its harsh, dominating, worldly power it gave up living original Christianity’s love of enemy in imitation of Jesus.

conversion

- turn around, change, movement from something to something else; change of heart, change of mind, to become different
- an important aspect of living Gospel Nonviolence which requires a daily willingness to turn back to Jesus

Nonviolent Love requires daily **conversion** from focus on self to compassion for others.

disciple(s)

- especially a follower of Jesus while He lived on earth
- anyone in any time period who follows Jesus closely

Today **disciples** of Jesus are those people who serve others without desiring anything in return and who suffer when necessary to bring love to another child of God.

drafted

- to be selected from a larger group to go to a certain job
- especially meaning to be sent into the military

In the past, even though they didn't want to kill human beings or be trained to kill some people were **drafted** into the military.

early Church

- refers to the first three centuries of Christianity, the time closest to Jesus
- the time when the church proclaimed and lived Jesus' command to love friends and enemies

Christians in the **early Church** released the healing power of God through their faithful following of Jesus' teachings.

empathy

- the ability to be moved to compassionate thoughts, words or deeds by someone else's pain, suffering or need

Although Jesus might not have used the word, acting with **empathy** is at the heart of following the Gospel.

enemies

- a person or group with harmful desires towards another
- anyone who gets in the way or threatens my plan

Loving our **enemies** makes us true followers of Jesus and sons and daughters of the Creator.

evil

- negative, destructive power which is not as strong as God

Holy Love, because it is a stronger power, conquers **evil**.

fast

- (n.) the spiritual work, like an intense prayer, which often leads to new understandings
- (v.) to not eat any food, or certain foods

Before starting an action of civil disobedience Gandhi would prepare with a **fast**.

• • The purpose of a fast is the purification of the soul which comes through not eating and turning to God in prayer instead. When aware of being hungry, that feeling of hunger is a reminder to pray; since one is choosing not to eat, hunger is frequent but prayer becomes stronger than the hunger. In fact, hunger can become unnoticed because the prayer is so constant.

forgiveness

- refers to the healing of or the end of hurtful feelings and actions
- pardon, reconciliation, no longer considered at odds or against
- a serious concern for the Christian since everyone has enemies
- a necessary part of agape or unconditional love

We act like God and bring love to the world when we work out **forgiveness** between ourselves and God's other children.

grace

- gift or blessing
- influence of God in one's life
- strength of soul
- being in favor with God

Everyone needs **grace** to be able to make the decisions which bring us deeper into Holy Love.

Hiroshima

- city in Japan which in 1945 had almost 350,000 people
- the first city to have 130,000 of its people devastated by an atomic bomb

Many people died a terrible death in **Hiroshima**, Japan, after the Americans dropped the first atomic bomb.

holiness

- refers to being connected to God
- refers to being connected to nonviolent, merciful love, compassion
- blessed, sacred

Nonviolent Love is the way to move towards **holiness** because God, the Holy One is Nonviolent Love.

homeless shelter

homeless

- refers to those humans who live on the streets because they don't have a place to call home

shelter

- refers to a place that serves as protection from dangers and from weather for a night; a building or house

homeless shelter

- a place for those without a home of their own in which they may eat, shower and sleep for a night or two

We brought food and blankets to the **homeless shelter** where hungry men, women and children hoped to get a bed for the night.

houses of hospitality

hospitality

- to receive guests with kindness, attentive to their needs

houses of hospitality

- places where the homeless can go for food, a good night's sleep and companionship

Aware that many people had to give up their homes after losing their jobs and paychecks the Catholic Worker started **houses of hospitality** as a work of mercy.

injustice

- unfair, undeserved problems or difficulties
- not connected to the truth or dignity
- against or without basic human needs or rights

Some groups of people suffer through **injustice** such as hunger, poor health, or dangerous working conditions because those who can make changes don't care, lack empathy or perhaps are too greedy to make those changes which are good for everyone.

just war (theory)

- an idea which started with the Greeks (Aristotle b. 384 B. C.) and the Romans (Cicero b. 106 B. C.) long before Jesus was born
- the idea, which goes against the life and teachings of Jesus, that made it seem possible that sometimes killing as a group or preparing to kill as a group—war—could be considered good or necessary with certain specific situations

The **just war theory** opened the door to many millions of people being killed by Christians which is in directly opposite to the teachings of Jesus on love of friends and enemies.

- • The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, born in 384 B. C., and the Roman philosopher, Cicero, born in 106 B. C., influenced some Christian leaders (Ambrose, Augustine, Aquinas) who developed the just war theory. Non Christian ideas were used by church leaders in direct opposition to the teachings of Jesus. See Ronald Musto's *The Catholic Peace Tradition* and Fr. McCarthy's *Christian Just War Theory: The Logic of Deceit* for adult level discussion of this topic.

justified violence

justified

- connected to the truth, to what is right, fair, or deserved

violence

- rough force or power over another

justified violence

- rough, hurtful force, usually considered bad or unacceptable, but thought of as good because of the situation
- an idea that the Christian can sometimes go against the teachings of Jesus-God by acting harshly or roughly
- an understanding that uses rough force to free or protect one child of God by hurting another child of God

When I finally admitted that the **justified violence** I used towards my friend only added more sadness to the world I was ready to ask for forgiveness.

love

- to have compassion, mercy, care, empathy
- for the Christian love is understood to be agape or unconditional love
- to be willing to serve without wanting something back
- to be willing to suffer if necessary without wanting to hurt back
- to be willing to reconcile without at the same time wanting to dominate

Jesus taught His disciples, all His followers, to **love** both friends and enemies.

march

- an organized procession usually in a group setting to call attention to a problem that must be corrected;
- usually happens after dialogue (attempts at talking the problem through) has failed

Many people who have followed Jesus closely have joined a **march** to protest war as a solution to problems between nations.

martyr

- one who dies for his or her faith
- comes from a Greek word meaning witness

When the attack started Boniface knew he could have defended himself with violent force but he chose to stay true to Jesus; he became a **martyr**, a witness to the Truth of Nonviolent Love.

mercy

- love
- pity or compassion
- the presence of God in this world
- empathy in action
- a forgiving, accepting, healing love especially for someone who has offended or is in need

Acting with **mercy** towards someone in need brings the presence of God on earth.

military chaplain

military

- relating to the armed forces: army, navy, marines or air force

chaplain

- minister

military chaplain

- minister that is part of the military

When Fr. George Zabelka, a former **military chaplain**, realized God is Father of all human beings he rejected everything about the military because its purpose is to train some of God's children to kill other children of God.

- • For the Christian, military chaplaincy is a pairing of opposites. Christians are called to love their enemies but the military is training in how to kill the enemy. People in the military need spiritual support but that support can be given by Christian ministers who are outside the military. That we have military chaplains shows how misled our following of Jesus has been for many, many years.

military service

- refers to the period of time someone is committed to the military
- armed forces, army, navy, marines or air force

Those who refuse to go into **military service** because they will not kill or help others to kill are called conscientious objectors.

Nagasaki

- a city in Japan which in 1945 had almost 200,000 people
- the second city to be devastated by an atomic bomb; 40,000 people were killed instantly while another 30,000 died within months

Men, women and children suffered and died when Christian American soldiers dropped an atomic bomb, the second ever used, on **Nagasaki**.

nationalism

- excessive love or focus on one nation, possibly to the point of bringing hurt of some sort to those outside that nation

Exaggerated feelings of **nationalism** and patriotism often lead countries into war.

nonresistance

- the strong, creative force which fights any and every form of evil without using violence
- to refuse to use violence to fight someone who attacks or brings about a hurtful action
- sometimes confused with weakness, or doing nothing
- Gospel Nonviolence

The idea of **nonresistance** is a serious part of understanding Jesus and His command to love both friends and enemies.

• • There has been some confusion in the past regarding this word. If we define precisely the prefix and root of this word we do not get to its real meaning—no and to withstand, strive against or oppose. To act in opposition—as a literal translation comes closer when taken in the context of an event of violence—to act in opposition to the violence—to oppose (using) the violent method. Christians through history who were nonresistant Christians, like the members of peace churches, have used the word nonresistance to mean a nonviolent response to violence done—but a definite, intentional response. It does not mean ‘not responding’ unless ‘not responding’ (as in ignoring) was the chosen response.

nonviolence/nonviolent

non

- not, none, not any, no part of

violence

- rough force, injury, trickery to convince or control, deceit, power over, destruction

nonviolence

- without the use of any type of force, injury or power over another
- peaceful, free from any destructive or hurtful action
- strong, positive action of care towards all involved which confronts evil (or some aspect of evil)

God's love and Jesus' love are the same: **nonviolent**, merciful love, which is available to everyone, always.

Nonviolent Followers of Jesus

- those followers of Jesus who have grasped and taken seriously His example and teaching of nonviolent love of friends and enemies
- normal human beings who continue living or trying to live Nonviolent Love through struggles and failure

No matter how difficult or easy it has been the **Nonviolent Followers of Jesus** have persevered in staying true to Jesus' most difficult teaching.

original Christianity

- the kind of Christianity closest to Jesus' time on earth
- refers to the kind of Christianity that Jesus wanted His followers to live—nonviolent love for friends and enemies

Sometimes the way we live today is not the way of **original Christianity**.

pacifism

- the belief that differences should never be solved and can never really be solved by violence or war
- the refusal to be involved in war
- from the Latin for pacific, related to peaceable, peacemaking
- came into use as a word in the 1900's
- opposed to the attitude that warring is the best way to reach a goal
- opposed to the attitude that being prepared for war is good

The word **pacifism** is, unfortunately, misunderstood; it does not mean anything like being passive.

The historic peace churches lived out their **pacifism** by refusing to go to war, refusing to make weapons for war, and by helping victims of war.

pacifist(s)

- a person committed to keeping peace and solving differences without violence or war
- can refer to a person committed to Gospel Nonviolence
- used infrequently because it is unclear and similar to the word 'passive' which gives the idea of weak and powerless—the exact opposite of Gospel Nonviolence

Though some **pacifists** are not Christian, A. J. Muste, America's # 1 Pacifist, lived by a strong commitment to Jesus and His way of Nonviolent Love.

Parousia

- that time when God—Love—fills all creation completely; God will be “All in All”

The peace we build today prepares us for **Parousia**, that time when God will be “All in All”.

- • See I Cor. 15:28, Rom. 8:19-21

peace churches

- those churches which have proclaimed nonviolent love as the way of Jesus of the Gospels and the way the Christian must follow by refusing to use force and violence, including war
- Quakers, Mennonites (including their “cousins” the Amish) and Church of the Brethren

Members of the **peace churches** have a rich history of witnessing for peace and nonviolent love in war torn areas of the world by bringing relief to the suffering caused by war.

pilgrimage

- a journey, usually a long one, to a holy place for holy reasons

Fr. George Zabelka said he went on a **pilgrimage**, a journey to a holy place for a holy reason—he went to Nagasaki to ask for forgiveness for his part in dropping the atomic bomb.

poverty

- the condition of being poor, without proper food, clothes or shelter
- dire need

The works of mercy heal the problem of **poverty** while the works of war increase poverty around the world.

prayer

- communication with God, relationship
- takes four forms: adoration, contrition, giving thanks, supplication (asking petitions)
- a way to enter into relationship with God so as to become more like God: holy and loving

Just as a person spends time with those she loves, so does the Christian spend time with God through **prayer**.

The strength of a Christian's Nonviolent Love is related to the strength of that person's **prayer** life.

preferential option for the poor

preferential

- to prefer or favor

option

- to choose or choice

poor

- those without all their needs met

preferential option for the poor

- to favor the poor when making decisions
- to choose to stand with and heal the suffering of the poor by changing society so no one has to be poor

Many holy men and women have shown their love of Christ and their desire to follow His example by caring for the lowly in living a **preferential option for the poor**.

protest(s)

- (n.) public display by a group of dislike of something
- (v.) to publicly display dislike of something, especially related to job issues or injustices

The Argentinean women of the group called Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo wore white scarves and walked in **protest** of the government's silence about the "disappearance" of their sons and husbands.

racism

- destructive thoughts, attitudes, emotions, words, or deeds directed towards someone because of that person's race or ethnic background
- the belief that some races are superior or inferior to others

The terrible sufferings of **racism** led many Nonviolent Followers of Jesus to understand the real problem of violence—that some people are valued more than others even though God values everyone equally.

reconciliation

- forgiveness or healing especially between individuals or individuals and God
- the settling of differences between opposite sides of an issue

During the conversations which were held everyday until the problem was solved, each person was allowed time to voice concerns; by Friday **reconciliation** was reached.

revolution(ary)

- a complete turn around
- complete or marked change

Talking about Jesus' teaching of nonviolent love of friends and enemies Pope Benedict XVI said, "The **revolution** of love. . . changes the world without making noise."

• • Fr. Emmanuel McCarthy says in his *Behold the Lamb* audio series, talk #1, "To be human is to want to be a revolutionary." Part of being genuinely human is to want the immense pain and suffering of our world to be corrected, to be turned around, to be changed. It is only agape love, nonviolent love, God's Love, also called holiness that can bring about this change. Holy, Nonviolent Love is the answer to how to relieve suffering in this world, how to turn things around in this world. Holy, Nonviolent Love is revolutionary.

(Listen on-line at www.centerforchristiannonviolence.org > resources)

rosary

- a devotion usually prayed by Roman Catholics but available to all Christians
- devotion consisting of prayers taken from the New Testament (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) which are prayed while meditating on mysteries in the life of Jesus and His mother Mary
- string of beads in a pattern of (usually) 5 sets of 10 beads, each set with a leader bead used to keep order while meditating on the mysteries of Jesus' life

Every day after she was baptized Dorothy Day meditated on some part of the life of Jesus by praying the **rosary**.

- • While the mind and heart are fully attentive to the prayers and mysteries, the hand is keeping place by using the beads.
- • Our Father—MT 6:9-13
Hail Mary—LK 1:28-32
Glory Be—Rev. 4:8, 9, 11, 2 Cor. 13:14

servant

- a person who serves, or takes care of, the needs of another person

As Jesus is the Servant, the Suffering Servant, so the Christian is called to be the **servant**, especially of those in dire need.

strike

- temporary refusal to work by a group to call attention to a problem that must be solved

Workers on **strike** need support and courage because they have no income and sometimes arouse anger in the bosses or managers who do not want to listen to their concerns.

suffering

- the experience of pain of some sort

While bringing love, help or mercy to a child of God the Christian may have to accept **suffering** as Jesus accepted suffering on the cross.

theology school

- from the Greek theo- meaning divine or God
- from the Greek -ology meaning study of
- college or university level study of the experience of God and faith

Though some Nonviolent Followers of Jesus studied in **theology school** most simply imitated Jesus with a heart filled with love for all.

vegetarian(ism)

- a person who does not eat animal flesh (meat)
- belief in the practice of not eating animal flesh (meat)

Those Christians who extend their understanding of nonviolence to include animals live as **vegetarians**.

- • Vegans do not eat (or sometimes even use) animal products-eggs, dairy products, (leather) as a way of going deeper into the respect for all life.

voluntary poverty

voluntary

- to freely take up, to choose without force

poverty

- to be poor, to be without anything extra and sometimes without what is necessary for healthy life

voluntary poverty

- to freely choose to live without anything extra and even to be without what could be considered necessary but without being hurt seriously
- to be stand with the poor by free choice, to move away from the power money brings, to be with the poor rather than with the wealthy or the power that comes with money

Those living in **voluntary poverty** refuse to have 'extras', those things we enjoy but which are not really necessary, until everyone else has the basic necessities of life.

The Way

- the term for the followers of Jesus before the word ‘Christian’ was used
- refers to the selfless giving and power-filled life of loving friends and enemies of those who followed Jesus closely in every way

Many who saw the people of **The Way** feeding the hungry, bringing humor and joy to the lonely and sad would say, “See how they love one another”.

works of mercy

- corporal works of mercy are to visit the sick, visit those in prison, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, comfort the sorrowful
(the word corporal comes from Latin meaning body)
- spiritual works of mercy are to bear wrongs patiently, forgive injuries, counsel the doubtful, admonish (correct) the sinner, instruct the ignorant, pray for the living and the dead, bury the dead
- list of works a Christian is called to do which bring the Kingdom of Love to earth, which relieves the suffering of those loved by God

Though some **works of mercy** must be performed by adults, some can be performed by children; all that is necessary is a heart showing love for others through activities such as praying, reading, letter writing or singing.