

**The Church
should be a
Prophetic Voice
Proclaiming the
Nonviolent Gospel
to US Policy Makers,
and to its own
members.**

The church should be a prophetic and clear voice, proclaiming the Gospel without equivocation or compromise. Instead of accommodating a war making empire, the church should be calling the nation to repentance, to make reparations to all of its victims, and to embrace Jesus' way of nonviolent love and forgiveness. We are a civilization, a world, posed on the brink of self-destruction.

If the Just War theory is becoming unusable, as it appears to be, then let's start telling Catholics about Jesus' teaching on nonviolence. Better than that, let's start training all our people in the pews, in every parish across the land, in the practice of active, creative Gospel nonviolence. This is obviously more important than worrying about whether the pews have kneelers or not! "Christians have to learn, as a most substantial part of our faith, that peace with God, peace in our hearts, peace with neighbor, love of enemy, and reconciliation cannot be separated; they are one indivisible gift of God and a mission for all believers." [Bernard Häring]. We need to return to the early church's preparations for all Christians to be able to stand up to the power of the Empire and take whatever

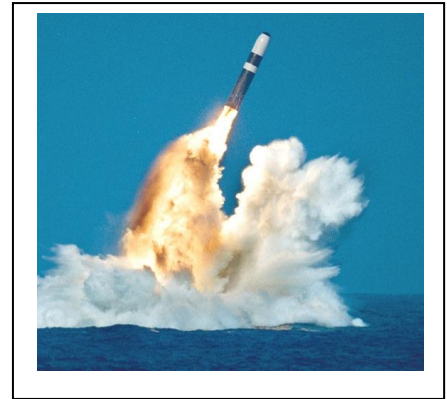
are the consequences. After all Jesus asked us to take up our cross and follow him, did he not?

Following the “Challenge of Peace”... and in the spirit of St. Justin, St Cyprian, St Martin of Tours, St Francis of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi, Dorothy Day, and Martin Luther King ; Let us propose the following actions to which we see the Reign of God calling all US Christians.

A] **All Christians should try to influence US policy,**

in favor of:

1. Effective nuclear arms control leading to nuclear arms reduction and disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation. This is the most pressing moral problem of our time.
2. Prohibitions of chemical and biological weapons.
3. Negotiations aimed at reducing and limiting all conventional forces.
4. Prohibitions on conventional weapons such as land mines, cluster bombs, assassination drones, depleted uranium, white phosphorus shells, heavy bombs [DIME], fuel air explosives, particle weapons, and other exotic weapons.
5. Control of world trade in arms and armaments.
6. Efforts to develop nonviolent means of defense, conflict resolution, resistance to evil, and popular defense.
7. Establishment of a US Department of Peace, to do research and training in the areas of conflict resolution, non-violent resistance, and service and education for peace, with a minimum budget of one tenth of one percent of the total military budget.



B] **All Catholics should work to encourage the US Catholic Church at all levels -- national, diocesan, parish, organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, and all schools, primary through college and university -- to:**

1. With the help of the NCCB/USCC, establish an office of Justice and Peace in every Diocese, a committee for Justice and Peace in every school, and in every parish as part of the Parish Council.
2. Offer training for all diocesan, school, and parish leadership to enable them to carry out the following programs.
3. Provide full education to all Catholics in the Just War tradition and its difficulties with modern warfare, in the active nonviolence tradition of Jesus, and in the rights of people to conscientious objection to all war, and to specific wars, and provide support for all those choosing to become CO's.
4. Make available to every Catholic, training in nonviolent means of defense, conflict resolution and resistance to evil.
5. Teach an understanding and evaluation of the arms race (nuclear and conventional), encourage truly trans-national perspectives on disarmament, explore new forms of international cooperation and exchange, develop and perfect a theology of Peace.
6. Teach about world order to all Catholics. The social, political, and economic interdependence of the world calls for a more integrated international system. We are missing a properly constituted world political authority. We need to work with the UN to turn it into a truly effective international authority. **This is a substitute for war.**
7. We need a new "global" Marshall plan, a national security strategy of generosity, respect and caring. "A plan for the entire world's people to work in solidarity to eliminate poverty once and for all and to heal the environmental crisis."