
Rejoice in the Lord



By Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Peace is the Work of Justice and Charity

On January 6, 2021, only days into a year that promised a new beginning after the social unrest and economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the failure of political leaders to achieve unity and peace in our nation, violence once again erupted. Angry mobs stormed the Capitol building in Washington, DC, in a failed attempt to disrupt the orderly transfer of presidential power. Once again, the effort to build peace was shown to be a fragile and temporary process that requires hard work and constant renewal.

What is peace? It's the absence of violence, certainly, but it's also much more. St. Augustine called it "the tranquility of order," which is certainly an important aspect of peace. Peace is experienced personally and communally. When we're at peace, we're not filled with anxiety; our homes are not filled with loud arguments and discord; our neighborhoods and cities are safe and well-ordered, not threatening or chaotic; and nations, races and peoples live together in harmony and mutual respect without suffering the horrors of prejudice, enmity, oppression or war.

Peace is much more than the absence of war or the coexistence of peoples and nations. The Second Vatican Council (*Gaudium et Spes*, #78) teaches that peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. Peace is a gift from God, the sum of many gifts from God that help us live fully with hearts full of justice and love. As Pope Francis said in his 2021 World Day of Peace Message (see below):

There can be no peace without a culture of care. The culture of care thus calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to peace. "In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter" (*Fratelli Tutti* #225).

What is justice? Giving every human being the reverence and respect due to him or her as a child of God. Justice is structuring human affairs and the organization of society in accordance with God's plan. We are just when we treat others fairly and when we work together to protect the innocent and the vulnerable from violence or evil. We are just when all people (wealthy and poor, strong and weak) live together in mutual respect and solidarity. Once again, Pope Francis insists that respect for the human person—safeguarding the dignity and human rights of all—is absolutely essential to genuine, lasting peace.

What is love? The sharing of self that we learn most perfectly from God, who is Love, and who shows us how to be for others in everything we say and do. Authentic love is not self-serving or self-gratifying. It is the generous sharing of ourselves (all that we have and all that we are) in ways that connect us intimately with God and with our fellow human beings—those who are closest to us (family, friends and neighbors) and those who are far from us (strangers, social outcasts, even enemies).

True peace, the peace that lasts, happens when we work for justice. It is the product of the hard work of civilization, the rule of law and the right-ordering of social structures. Peace requires fairness, respect for human dignity and the refusal to take advantage of another's weakness. If we want peace, we must work for justice—here at home and around the world.

Lasting peace—the kind that is more than a temporary ceasefire or a periodic break between hostile actions—is the effect of charity. There is no real peace without forgiveness or without the willingness to sacrifice our individual or collective self-interest for the sake of genuine harmony. If we want peace, we must let go of our desire for revenge, and we must be willing to let old wounds heal through the saving grace of God's love.

I think most of us would agree that true peace (with justice and love) is what we long for, especially during this time of pandemic, social unrest and economic hardships.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2305) teaches that “earthly peace is the image and the fruit of the peace of Christ, the messianic Prince of Peace.” Peace has been made possible for us because Christ has reconciled us with God and with each other. We have been forgiven so that we may forgive others. We have been shown mercy so that we might let go of our desire for vengeance against those who do us harm to a higher form of justice that is informed by love.

Peace will happen when we “let go and let God.” When that day comes, nations will unite in a world order that respects the fundamental human rights and authentic cultural diversity of nations and peoples. Neighbors will help and respect one another. Families will live together joyfully. And each woman and man on earth will be calm, untroubled and at peace.

May the peace of Christ be with us in 2021 and always. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we find happiness and joy in working for justice and in responsible stewardship of all God's gifts.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R." in a cursive style.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Statement of Cardinal Tobin on the Inauguration of President Joseph Biden

January 20, 2021

On the day of his inauguration, I congratulate President Joseph R. Biden and draw inspiration from his words, "With purpose and resolve, we turn to those tasks of our time, sustained by faith, driven by conviction, and devoted to one another and the country we love with all hearts." The people of the Archdiocese of Newark join all Americans in working together for the good of our country and world.

As the new administration assumes office today, we pray for President Biden and support his quest to unite the American people at this crucial moment in our history. We ask God for peace and unity as well as the strength and perseverance necessary to address our nation's most urgent issues, especially the deadly pandemic. I pray that American Catholics and all people of good will may respect each other and remain engaged in a peaceful and productive dialogue with our president and his administration for the sake of the common good. May the Holy Spirit protect and guide us in our shared pilgrimage. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.

Annual Appeal ^{the 2021}

Catholic Stewardship *in Action*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you in the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ at the start of this new year. Though different in many ways, our recent celebration of Christmas, reminded us so powerfully that Christ is the Light that shines in the darkness.

In more ways than one, this past year seemed to be covered by shadows and dimmed by the dramatic global pandemic that continues to affect our world. Despite the uncertainty and adversity, the People of God remain steadfast in their witness and stewardship, and for this I am grateful.

As is customary for this time of year, I would like to humbly ask your support for the 2021 Annual Appeal which will fund essential programs and ministries at the heart of our Catholic mission in our four counties – namely to proclaim the gospel, to pass on the faith to future generations, particularly through the celebration of the sacraments, and to care of the poor and those on the margins.

Now more than ever, especially during this health crisis, our ministries and programs need your support. Will you prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2021 Annual Appeal? I can assure you that 100% of your contribution will fund the Appeal's case for support (see "Areas of Support" below). The gifts we receive are used exclusively to serve the mission of the Church.

Once again, thank you for your faithfulness. May Mary, Mother of our Redeemer and our Mother, protect you and lead you ever closer to her Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Areas of Support



Annual Appeal ^{the 2021}

Case for Support

Your gift to the 2021 Annual Appeal supports essential programs and ministries including:

\$1 Million Proclaiming the Gospel

- Ministry to Multi-Ethnic Communities
- Office of Evangelization
- Office of Family Life
- International Missions
- Ministry with the Deaf

\$3.5 Million Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Catholic Charities
- Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy
- Ministry With Persons With Disabilities
- Respect Life Office
(Includes Mercy House and Pro-Life Efforts)
- Protecting God's Children

\$2 Million Passing on the Faith

- Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- Catechetical Office
- Campus Ministry and affiliated Colleges & Universities
- Catholic Schools

\$2.5 Million Forming Future Priests and Supporting Retired Clergy

- Continuing Formation for Priests
- Seminarian Education
- Priest Health Care

A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope

A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace

Selections from the Holy Father's Message for the 2021 World Day of Peace



The year 2020 was marked by the massive Covid-19 health crisis, which became a global phenomenon cutting across boundaries, aggravating deeply interrelated crises like those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, and causing great suffering and hardship. I think especially of all those who lost family members or loved ones, and all who lost their jobs. I think too of physicians and nurses, pharmacists, researchers, volunteers, chaplains and the personnel of hospitals and healthcare centers. They have made, and are continuing to make, great sacrifices to be

present to the sick, to alleviate their sufferings and to save their lives; indeed, many of them have died in the process. In paying tribute to them, I renew my appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable. Sad to say, alongside all these testimonies of love and solidarity, we have also seen a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake. These and other events that marked humanity's path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society.

Care in the ministry of Jesus

Jesus' life and ministry represent the supreme revelation of the Father's love for humanity (cf. Jn 3:16). In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus showed himself to be the one consecrated by the Lord and "sent to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Lk 4:18). These messianic actions, associated with the Jubilee year, bear eloquent witness to the mission he received from the Father. In his compassion, Christ drew near to the sick in body and spirit, and brought them healing; he pardoned sinners and gave them new life. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep (cf. Jn 10:11-18; Ezek 34:1-31). He is the Good Samaritan who stoops to help the injured man, binds his wounds and cares for him (cf. Lk 10:30-37). At the culmination of his mission, Jesus gave the ultimate proof of his care for us by offering himself on the cross to set us free from the slavery of sin and death. By the sacrificial gift of his life, he opened for us the path of love. To each of us he says, "Follow me; go and do likewise" (cf. Lk 10:37).

Care as promotion of the dignity and rights of each person

"The very concept of the person, which originated and developed in Christianity, fosters the pursuit of a fully human development. Person always signifies relationship, not individualism; it affirms inclusion, not exclusion, unique and inviolable dignity, not exploitation". Each human person is an end in himself or herself, and never simply a means to be valued only for his or her usefulness.

Persons are created to live together in families, communities and societies, where all are equal in dignity. Human rights derive from this dignity, as do human duties, like the responsibility to welcome and assist the poor, the sick, the excluded, every one of our “neighbors, near or far in space and time”.

Care for the common good

Every aspect of social, political and economic life achieves its fullest end when placed at the service of the common good, in other words, “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily”. Consequently, our plans and projects should always take into account their effects on the entire human family and consider their consequences for the present and for coming generations. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us the truth and timeliness of this fact. In the face of the pandemic, “we have realized that we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together”, since “no one reaches salvation by themselves” and no state can ensure the common good of its population if it remains isolated.

There can be no peace without a culture of care

The culture of care thus calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to peace. “In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter”.

At a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis, struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon, the “rudder” of human dignity and the “compass” of fundamental social principles can enable us together to steer a sure course. As Christians, we should always look to Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Mother of Hope. May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way;[26] instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, “to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another”.

To read the pope’s full message click on this link:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.pdf

My Prayer for You

Lord Jesus, you came among us as the Prince of Peace. Help us to seek and find your peace through a profound commitment to justice for all our sisters and brothers. Help us to build a “culture of care” in our families, communities, in our nation and in the world community. Amen.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

