



Peace by Piece

A newsletter for those
working toward peaceable solutions -
published by the

Office of Conciliation - Archdiocese of Chicago

FROM THE DIRECTOR Winter 2010

In this new year, it's the hope of the Office of Conciliation, that all of the good and gracious blessings of the Lord will be present in the lives of all people of good will who strive for peace in the world and who themselves are "peace gifts" to all who enter their lives.

May those same gracious blessings gift your ministry and the people you serve.
May the deepest yearnings of your heart be realized.
May the mantle of leadership you bear, be life giving and a source of grace and growth to you!

The Executive Board of the Office of Conciliation and I wish all of you "out there":
" A BLESSED AND PEACEABLE NEW YEAR!"...

Josie Mazzaia, Chairperson	Angelo Salutilo, Vice Chairperson.
Diane Mason, SP	Rev. Frank Kurucz
Emilio Carrasquillo	Patricia M. Welegala
Marie Wheel	Deacon Leonard Richardson
Ralph Bonaccorsi	

A CHECK WITH REALITY!

Yes, "Happy New Year to all"...yet, and at the risk of throwing cold water on our positive up-beat welcoming in 2010, to go headlong into this new year as if we were writing on a clean slate, think for a moment about the unfinished business...the baggage, the un-peace that pays no heed to "calendar boundaries"

nor observes any "time lines".

Allow me to "unpack" some of that baggage:

- Pervasive violence against women and children in so many parts of the globe...
- The dismantling of systems of justice...
- Violence against immigrants

- Unbridled greed and hubris of so many governments, corporations and individuals...
- The pervasive narcissism and self-indulgence of celebrity...
- The toxic erosion of civility in behavior, language, and modesty...

- The sexual saturation of culture and the effects on children and youth and adults...
- The absence of leaders and systems that honor ethics, integrity or fair play...
- The increasing poverty and marginalization...
- The presence of internecine wars and violence throughout the globe... And on and on...

Lord, Grant all peace!

FYIR*

“Just because you own the land...

Does not mean you own the people”

-Phillipine land reform saying

FAMILY VALUES??

I recently read somewhere an article on the condition of the American family and the struggles of the middle and “underclass”.

Here are some of the stats that I remember:

- The most significant factor over the past 20 years in maintaining and increasing family income has been putting two adults into the workforce

- In a recent study by the National Priorities Project, 74% of all new jobs were found to pay below a saving-living wage (A livable wage for a family of four to meet their basic needs of food, housing, transportation, clothing and taxes is, according to this research approximately \$32,000. Although, it varies by state).
- Twenty-one percent of all children, but 46% of African American and 40% of Latino children, live in poverty.
- Over 42 million Americans are without health insurance coverage. And not surprisingly, most of those without health insurance are low-wage earners and their families.

You know, reading these stats caused me to wonder if some of the violence, anger, depression and frustration that we are witness to in the “everyday” (our own as well!) isn’t the result of the frustration, depression, uncertainty of so many folks struggling with “living on the edge”...EVERY day... in so many ways.

A PRAYER FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES IN STRUGGLING TIMES

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;

When I have a job, help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer, and remind me not to be complacent; Stir my compassion, and motivate me enough to help and not just stand on the sidelines as others struggle to “make it.”

And Lord give me courage to “MAKE SOME NOISE” on their behalf...to speak up and out for those who have no voice of their own...

YES and AMEN!!

FYIR*

*“Be yourself, everyone else is taken”
- (Unknown)*

FOR LEADERS ONLY...NOT!!

The first order of leadership is to FORM a group of people who, under the influence of the institution, grow taller and become healthier, stronger and more autonomous!

Adapted from:
Robert K. Greenleaf:
“Servant Leadership”

AN INVENTORY FOR LEADERS (AND THE REST OF US TOO!)

Do you:

- Have *true* self confidence?
- Demonstrate *genuine* humility?
- Have solid values?
- Act on those values consistently?
- Communicate clearly and unambiguously?
- Set and articulate a clear direction for *your* team?
- Motivate AND empower others?
- *Make IT happen?*
- Have the courage of your convictions and yet...
- Encourage others to have theirs and to express them?

FYIR*

How do I treat people who can't talk back to me?

HANGING ON TO A CHERISHED RELATIONSHIP

(adapted from the article “What is this thing called CEO Leadership” by Harry Kraemer Jr.)

Drawing on the renewed energy that a New Year provides, why not make a resolution to give “it” one more chance for the relationship to “survive and prosper” in this new year?

Here’s a checklist, a set of reflection questions that just may “save that cherished connection”. Remember and Reflect:

- What attracted you to the relationship in the first place?
- What are the particular gifts/qualities of the person that you cherish most?
- Recall: what were some of the high points in the relationship; when you and the other were “hitting on all cylinders”?

(Now, before you go on to the following questions, TAKE A TIME OUT AND REVEL/BASK IN THOSE good feelings and pleasant memories!)

Ok! Lets move on to the following:

- When was it that you felt that the relationship began to “get off track”?
- What might you have contributed to the “train wreck”?
- What if done, acted upon differently (by you; the other) might “put ease” into the relationship and help it get back on track?

NOW!! Go to the “significant other” share your reflections; encourage the other to complete the above “exercise” as well and then share with you. If you both agree that the relationship is “worth another try”, commit to a “new life giving” plan for going forward together!

And finally, as you both work on the relationship *check* in with one another; celebrate what has worked; and agree to go forward, *hand in hand...heart to heart!!*

(While a bit more complicated, this process works with groups as well!)

SAY IT NOW! SAY IT NOW!!!

A story...
After the service, everyone left the cemetery, except the grieving husband and the rabbi. The husband remained by the graveside for a long while; finally the rabbi approached him.

“Mr. Rappaport, the service is over, it is time for you to leave”.

Max waved the rabbi away. “Rabbi, you don’t understand. I loved my wife.”

“I’m sure you did Max, but you have been here a very long time,” responded the Rabbi, “You should go now.”

Again, Max said, “You don’t understand, I loved my wife.”

Once more the rabbi urged him to leave.

“But you don’t understand, rabbi, I loved my wife...”

AND ONCE, I ALMOST TOLD HER.”

My prayer for you spouse, for you son, for you

daughter, for you sibling, for you friend... for whomever you are and whatever relationship you have; my prayer is that you will say IT now...and again and again... always and in all ways!

HERE IS ONE LAST THOUGHT FOR THE ROAD (TO PEACE):

Your anger maekz yur werdz diffilclut to undnerstnad

-Author unknown

JUST WHAT DOES THE OFFICE OF CONCILIATION DO?

WHO WE ARE...

A ministry in the service of peace through conflict resolution and the restoration of relationships.

WHAT WE DO...

Assist folks in preventing, managing and/or resolving conflict when it occurs in parish or ministry life.

WHO WE SERVE...

All the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago; ordained and lay, leaders and members.

WHAT WE PROMISE...

Respect...

For your privacy

For your story

Deep Listening...

To the facts

To your feelings

A commitment to...

Truth

Justice

Mercy

Peace & Reconciliation

Our Best Wisdom and Counsel...

“Outside the box” thinking...

New ways of resolving conflict....

A Commitment to...

the Gospel message of Jesus.

Since I still attempt to use the T.V. remote on the computer and put video cassettes in the DVD player, this newsletter would not have been possible without the assistance of Blanca, Kate, Jennifer, Carol, Sr. Elyse and many others too numerous to name in this small space,

Thank you Thank you Thank you. ~ Ralph

Peace to all!

