



# Peace by Piece

A newsletter for those  
working toward peaceable solutions -  
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**From the Director**  
**Winter 2009**

**Happy Belated New Year to All!**

**Would that 2009 be a blessed and fruitful one for all...**

**And may Peace be yours... a peace that is rooted in the The Good News of the Gospel...**

**May you and your loved ones *experience* PEACE, live PEACE, and BE PEACE to one another...always...*all ways*.**

**And to those who serve in the Church and minister to her people...Would that you find fulfillment in your service and joy in your ministry...**

**Would that, you be sustained by grace and all of the good and generous gifts the Lord has given you...**

**Would that, you open yourself to the *Spirit* stirring within you, to guide the course of your ministry and its mission...**

**Our prayer and hope for you in 2009 is this:**

**That your ministry flourish.**

**That you be blessed and motivated by the *Spirit* in all that you do.**

**May you be a wise servant...**

**May you be prudent in your decisions...yet BOLD, when to be otherwise, would be to sacrifice, Truth or Justice - Mercy or Peace, on the altar of expediency....**

**In this time, when all of a sudden so much of what we took for granted in the past, seems to have evaporated.**

**In this time, when so much of the *steadiness* of our lives has been shaken...**

**In this time, of angst and frustration borne out of experience of powerlessness...**

**In this time, when *struggle* has taken up residence in the lives of so many...**

**May your hope not ebb, may your trust in the Lord not diminish, may you stir a bit of sugar in to the cup, that is your life, so that others may know the sweetness of life & faith because of you.**

**Peace and Blessings... *Ralph***

*Out of Conflict ... Reconciliation*



*Let there be peace and let it begin with you and me...*

**GOOD WILL**  
**A Fundamental Building Block**  
**For Doing Good and Sowing Peace**

PEOPLE OF *GOOD WILL* CAN BE RECOGNIZED BY THE FOLLOWING  
*WAYS OF*  
*DOING AND BEING AND RELATING:*

- ◆ **A passion for choosing peace over violence...**
- ◆ **A constant Beatitudinal demeanor and mindset...**
- ◆ **A respect for ALL life...**
- ◆ **A constant pursuit for Justice and right relationships...**
- ◆ **A bias for Mercy...**
- ◆ **A sturdy resolve to speak one's truth...  
even when painful or challenging to do so...**
- ◆ **An unmitigated and gracious willingness to forgive 70 x 70...**
- ◆ **A fearless commitment to take responsibility for one's actions...**
- ◆ **An equally fearless commitment for apologizing when  
warranted...**
- ◆ **A recognition of and reliance on the Spirit...**

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*Let there be peace and let it begin with you and me...*

## SOME PROMISES TO KEEP FOR 2009 AND BEYOND

- My words will be spoken with civility and with respect toward all
- When I disagree, I will express my disagreement without insulting, mocking or slandering.
- I will not belittle nor exaggerate other's beliefs nor make unfounded prejudicial assumption.
- I will always extend the benefit of the doubt.

### **THE GOOD RABBI SAYS...**

**"if you can't go for twenty-four hours without saying something unkind about others...then you've lost control of your tongue."**

*Rabbi Joseph Telushkin*

*Words that Hurt' Words that Heal: Harper Press*

- The Advantaged Owe the Less Advantaged Help to Ensure they Receive Their Fair Share
- A Good Neighbor makes a neighbor of anyone in need... they do not limit their concern to those they already recognize as neighbor.



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# DID YOU KNOW ???

America has the highest proportion of its citizens living in poverty than any other advanced industrial nation (11%-15%)

There are 37 million people living below the poverty line.

*2 or more jobs to make ends meet*

The "working poor" are extremely vulnerable economically. They face substandard day care. They experience great difficulty finding affordable & safe housing. They are often uninsured or underinsured..

THEY OFTEN STAGGER UNDER HIGH CONSUMER DEBT...

They cannot afford tutors or private schools for their children

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*Let there be peace and let it begin with you and me...*