

A call for prayer and solidarity

We ask for your prayerful support before and during a unique Conference on Nonviolence & Just Peace to be held in Rome from 11 - 13 April, 2016. Invited by the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace and Pax Christi International, people from around the world, many from contexts of war and ongoing violence, will to contribute to renewed Catholic teaching and practice on war and peace, violence and nonviolence.

Holy Spirit, our source of light and strength, we thank you for having inspired the call to peace-makers from all over the world to meet in the dramatic situation of humanity to reconsider our responsibility, to deepen and promote the liberating and healing nonviolence of Jesus.

Merciful God, our Father and Mother, you sent your Son Jesus, our Brother, to reveal through his life and teaching your divine, self-giving Love and so incarnate in our world the power of nonviolence, able to overcome ALL forms of violence and to reconcile humanity in justice and peace.



We confess that for centuries our Church, people of God, has betrayed this central message of the Gospel many times and participated in wars, persecution, oppression, exploitation and discrimination.

Holy Spirit, as we meet as peacemakers, we count on your light and your strength to help revive in the Theology of Peace the nonviolent message of Jesus in which there is no place for violence and to offer to all Christians the arms of peacemaking, pardon and reconciliation.

Holy Spirit, we trust in your light and strength that this Conference may mark a new step for our Church, on its way to becoming a Church of Peace, in the spirit of our Brother Jesus and so respond to the cry of humanity for life in dignity and peace.

*Hildegard Goss-Mayr,
March 2016, written for the Conference*

Let us pray that contemplating Jesus, our Lord and our Peace, Christians will be able to repent of the words and attitudes caused by pride, by hatred, by the desire to dominate others, by enmity towards members of other religions and towards the weakest groups in society, such as immigrants and itinerants. *Archbishop Stephen Fumio Hamao*

Lord of the world, Father of all, through your Son you asked us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us and to pray for those who persecute us. Yet Christians have often denied the Gospel; yielding to a mentality of power, they have violated the rights of ethnic groups and peoples, and shown contempt for their cultures and religious traditions: be patient and merciful towards us, and grant us your forgiveness! We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Pope John Paul II*



On behalf of the planning committee: *Dr. Vittorio V. Alberti*, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Ken Butigan*, Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service; DePaul University, *Loreta Castro*, Center for Peace Education, Miriam College and Pax Christi Pilipinas, *Marie Dennis*, Pax Christi International, *Pat Gaffney*, Pax Christi UK, *José Henríquez*, Pax Christi International, *Filo Hirota*, MMB, Pax Christi International and International Union of Superior Generals (UISG), *Sheila Kinsey*, FCJM, JPIC Commission Union of Superior Generals (USG-UISG), *Anne Lanyon*, Columban Mission Institute, Australia, *Gerry Lee*, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, *Eli McCarthy*, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, *Felix Mushobozi*, CPPS, JPIC Commission Union of Superior Generals (USG-UISG), *Ann Scholz*, SSND, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, *Judy Coode*, Conference Coordinator, Pax Christi International.