

## Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

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#### # 6 “Active Peacemaking”

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Luke 10: 1-10

**Reflection:** “Into whatever house you enter, first say, *Peace to this household.*”

Being followers of Jesus involves going out to be peacemakers. Peace may be understood negatively, ie, the absence of war, racial vilification and structures which may cause violence to people. Or peace may be understood positively, ie. personal inner peace, structural peace where social structures allow development and collaboration, Cosmic Christic peace involving a sense of solidarity with all living things and the Earth, and nonviolence taught by Jesus. Violence comes in many forms. It can be verbal abuse or bullying, sexual assault, harassment, trafficking, lack of basic human rights, destruction of nature, gun violence, poverty and economic exclusion, war and terrorism. In our current global situation, humanity needs a vision of people living together peacefully and sharing the responsibility for the care of each other and the Earth. We possess sufficient economic, cultural and spiritual resources to do this, but achieving it begins in each human heart. Jesus calls us to be active peacemakers in our own hearts, in our homes and in our society.

#### **Fact File:**

Our society is structured in such a way that many people are pushed to the edges. There are numerous examples of this. The exclusion of people occurs at all levels and in different institutions – families, schools, Church, multinational corporations. One effect of these structures of domination is that both the oppressor and the oppressed are dehumanised. We must ask who is excluded and who is included? Why? Who decides priorities? Who benefits and who loses?

**Learn More:** The [Way of Peace Anzac Edition](#) produced by this Centre provides a rich source of information for discussion and consideration.

**Take Action:** Relearn ways of responding to unjust aggression and violence without retaliating with violence. The Conflict Resolution Network has 12 Skills Ideas. [www.crnhq.org/content.aspx?file=66138|37479i](http://www.crnhq.org/content.aspx?file=66138|37479i)

## From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

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