



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice
Making connections between
Peace, Ecology and Justice from
the Gospel perspective

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!
#3, April 2016: "Following the One who is Peace"**

Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

3 "Following the One who is Peace".

April 3rd, 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday): John 20: 19-31

Reflection: *"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*

"To seek peace, deep peace rooted in justice, shalom – not a mere absence of war, but the fullness of life for all – that is the Christian vocation and way of life. As followers of the One who is Peace, who on the cross overcame the violences of our world and who then called for peace and modeled forgiveness, we are called to help move our broken and violated world toward the full flowering of the New Creation, repeating Jesus way of active, nonviolent, persistent, risky, creative peacemaking." These words are the opening of the rationale for an international conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace being held in Rome on April 11-13 in the Year of Mercy. They are words that we can all reflect on as we read this passage in John's Gospel. What could happen if Catholics spoke more strongly against war as a means of dealing with conflicts and instead learnt ways of dealing with conflict that did not resort to deadly weapons? What would happen if governments put resources into learning the practice of nonviolent peacemaking?

Fact File: Catholic practitioners of nonviolence and practical peacemaking from countries around the world, including places of current and recent wars are gathering at this event. The conference convened by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi, will be opened by Cardinal Turkson. It will initiate a conversation about Catholic teaching on war and peace that rejects "just war" and engages in the spirituality and practice of nonviolent peacemaking, lived and taught by Jesus.

Learn More: Growing a Culture of Peace includes a culture of life, a culture of human rights and responsibilities and a culture of ecological awareness and living. Growing a Culture of Peace implies that the seeds of peace have been planted and are being nurtured at the personal, local, national and international levels. This takes courage and effort and honours the memory of those who suffered and died in war. Learn more at: <http://goo.gl/WHrYie>

Take Action: Please pray for the success of the Rome Conference on April 11-13. Learn more about the conference aims. See <http://goo.gl/rzu691>

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