

University of Notre Dame
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Towards World Peace.

Statesmen are perhaps more skeptical now than ever over the possibilities of lasting world peace. Can you blame them? Look today to Japan in China, to civil war in Spain. Look to Ethiopia and Italy yesterday. Look to the Great World War the day before. Go on back through history as far as study and reading will take you, and on every page you will find the bloody traces of war.

Leaders of needy nations are arming for that holy hour of conquest when they will put new land and new wealth at the disposal of their suffering people. Rich nations are girding themselves to keep what they have. Everywhere there is distrust, suspicion, misrepresentation as nations furtively and furiously prepare for war.

Is there, then, nothing to be done in the interests of world peace? Amidst wars and rumors of war, much must be done.

The universal brotherhood of men is the ultimate basis of peace. Christians above all must first realize that universal brotherhood is not a poet's dream but an actual condition of life which draws Japanese and Americans, Germans and French, Italians and Englishmen into one sacred family. It is not enough to admit theoretically that "every human being is my neighbor" as I actually hate the look of a Japanese.

Statesmen of all nations should be convinced that there is an international code of justice and charity to be observed throughout every agreement and maneuver. Without weakening at all the sentiment of national patriotism citizens have to see that it is not "sweet and becoming to die for one's country" if one's country is fighting for that which is unjust.

Peace is feasible if the general mental attitude can be changed. So long as people think that war is inevitable they will assert themselves weakly in the cause of peace. Faith in the possibilities of peace and a deep-rooted love of peace are primary essentials.

Work for peace that "moral right be substituted for the material force of arms in the reciprocal dealings of nations"; that "nations enter upon a just agreement for the simultaneous and reciprocal reduction of armaments"; that "armed force be replaced by the noble and peaceful institution of arbitration" in the settlement of international disputes.

Work for peace in your own soul. World peace, and civilization itself, depend upon the individual's control of human instincts and passions. Inordinate love of pleasure and of power is the deadly enemy of individual peace and of the peace of nations.

Pray for peace. In May, 1936, when students in many secular colleges were holding noisy demonstrations and parades for peace, Bill Bowes, a Notre Dame student, suggested a Solemn Mass in the Church for the advancement of peace. On Ascension Thursday of that year the Mass was offered up. Other Catholic colleges liked the idea, and the next year there was a Peace Day for all Catholic colleges. This year the Day is to be observed next Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King. Note in the Mass next Sunday the frequently-recurring prayers for peace--in the Gloria "and on earth peace to men of good will"; at the beginning of the Canon "that Thou wouldst deign to keep Thy Church in peace and unity"; at the Hanc Igitur, "provide that our days be spent in peace"; after the Pater Noster "Grant peace in our days...that we may be safe from disturbance"; at the Pax Tecum, Agnus Dei, and in the prayer said just before Communion. Pray earnestly for peace next Sunday all during the Mass. The world is at a crossroads which leads to war or to peace.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. Hickey (Washington). Ill, nephew of George Haggerty (D11); George Stoeffel. One special intention.