

E-JusticePeaceIntegrityofCreationLetter

E-letter of the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Office of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate



Mission Statement

The Service of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation of the Oblate Congregation is an integral part of our missionary charism as it seeks to foster in and through its members, associates, partners, and institutional structures a vital and active presence where decisions are made affecting the poor (Rule9a). Through its animation programs the Service seeks to encourage and collaborate with Oblate ministries and institutions across the world to be in solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

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Peace Gathering in Hiroshima by Brady Rozairo, OMI

Every year in August, Japan remembers the victims of World War II. Special memorial services are held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to remember the dead. This year I was in Hiroshima to witness some of the events that took place on Aug.5th and 6th. They were a Symposium on peace, an Interreligious prayer service, a Peace march, a Mass for peace and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony which is attended by the prime minister of Japan and other dignitaries.

On the 5th in the evening various groups from different churches and dioceses gathered at the peace park. I think there were more than 300 people that included Catholic, Anglican and Protestant clergy and laity. We had an ecumenical prayer service, which was followed by a peace march. When the peace march reached the Peace Memorial Church, a special mass for peace was

held. It was more an international gathering, because there were people from all over the world to pray for peace.

I noticed that during the

events that took place both inside and outside the church, some speakers quoted U.S. President Obama and his appeal for a world free of nuclear arms. The Mayor of Hiroshima, at the end of his Peace Declaration said in English, "We have the power. We have the responsibility. And we are the Obamajority. Together, we can abolish nuclear weapons. Yes, we can".

That was a great statement. As I was listening to the words of the Mayor, I could see the Atomic Bomb Dome in front of me. I said to myself I have



the privilege to be in the right place at a right time. I have seen the Peace Memorial Ceremony on television but I of me. I said to myself I have the privilege to be in the right place at a right time. I have seen the Peace Memorial Ceremony on television but I tell you it is completely different when you are physically present. I was happy to be part of that ceremony. This made me renew my vocation to work for peace.

Brady Rozairo, OMI is the Chair of Human Rights Committee for the Diocese of Takamatsu, Japan, where many Oblates work.

Homage to Lorenzo...



Larry Rosebaugh, OMI
1935 - 2009

"His passion for peace was reignited when El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero, a beloved advocate of the poor, was shot to death on March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass. In 1983 Larry joined Maryknoll Missionary Fr. Roy Bourgeois and peace activist Linda Ventimiglia near the barracks where Central American death squad soldiers

were being trained by the CIA's School of the Americas near Fort Benning, Georgia. There Larry scaled a tree and broadcasted the last recorded words of martyred Archbishop Romero, beseeching Salvadoran soldiers to lay down their weapons and stop killing their brothers."

(From Pentecost Homily by Alexis Luzi, OFM CAP)

Caritas in Veritate

Every Christian is called to practise this charity, in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the *pólis*. This is the institutional path — we might also call it the political path — of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbour directly, outside the institutional mediation of the *pólis*. (#7)

Globalization is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon which must be grasped in the diversity and unity of all its different dimensions, including the theological dimension. In this way it will be possible to experience and to *steer the globalization of humanity in relational terms, in terms of communion and the sharing of goods*. (42)

Efforts are needed — and it is essential to say this — not only to create “ethical” sectors or segments of the economy or the world of finance, but to ensure that the whole economy — the whole of finance — is ethical, not merely by virtue of an external label, but by its respect for requirements intrinsic to its very nature. The Church’s social teaching is quite clear on the subject, recalling that the economy, in all its branches, constitutes a sector of human activity.¹¹³ (45)

Today the subject of development is also closely related to the duties arising from *our relationship to the natural environment*. The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. (48)

Justice & Peace In The Mission Of Oblate Parishes

Oblates dedicated to parish ministry from the Latin-American and Caribbean region units of Argentina-Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Brazil-Central, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay met in Lima (Oscar Romero Center – Carabayllo) to study, discuss and look for ways to move forward in our pastoral ministry. The first step (SEE) was considered and prepared in advance by the participants who were representatives of their units to this session. The second step was (JUDGE) was the reason for getting together, and the third step (ACT) will be the expected follow-up. Amongst those who came to “give a helping hand” in the process were Archbishop Pedro Barreto, SJ (Huancayo – Peru), Fr. Christian de Paul Barchilfontaine (St. Camilo – Brazil), Fr. Marco Arana (Cajamarca – Peru), Mrs. Cecilia Tovar and Mrs. Elena Cubas (Lima) as well as several Oblates, amongst them Miguel Fritz (Paraguay – President of CIAL), Gregorio Iriarte (Bolivia), José Manuel Santiago (Guatemala), Camille Piché (JPIC – Rome) and Daniel LeBlanc (OMI and VIVAT International representative at the UN). An outcome document was agreed upon and time was taken to write letters of support to our Sri Lankan Oblates as well as to the Indigenous Peoples struggling for their rights in the Amazon region of Peru.

Sri Lanka – Update

May 18th marked the end of the military struggle between the forces of the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. The previous five months were a continuing story of numerous deaths from shelling and fighting as well as countless stories of pain and suffering. Appeals for a negotiated settlement from many different governments, international organizations, religious organizations and civil society groups went unheeded.

Since the end of May most of our efforts have been focused on the nearly 300,000 Tamils who are being held for processing by the government in refugee camps throughout the north. Two Oblates and at least four other priests, who stayed in the fighting zone to the end, are detained in the camps. The DC OMI JPIC office has received numerous reports and briefings from Oblates, other religious, US government officials and NGO’s about the situation in the camps. We have also reviewed numerous stories in the media and heard some firsthand accounts from people who have visited the camps.

At this stage the concerns of the international community continue to be focused on the safety of the people in the camps and the following of basic international human rights standards in their treatment. These include access to the basic necessities, respect for their rights in any procedures that are being implemented by the government and adequate international monitoring of those implementing the government processing procedures and resettlement programs. Access to the camps by internationally recognized humanitarian NGO’s is also a priority.

Finally, we are searching for opportunities to support efforts by Oblates and others who seek to heal the divisions that remain, create the foundation that will be needed for the political and ethnic reconciliation that must take place if the country is to recover from the legacy of the decades-long conflict and build a society that respects and defends the rights of all citizens.

Carl Kabat, OMI

Carl Kabat OMI, who has been arrested several times before for trespassing on nuclear-missile sites, was booked on August 6th into the Weld County Jail and held on suspicion of criminal mischief and trespassing, both misdemeanors.

Shortly before 8 a.m. Thursday, Carl arrived outside a N-8 Minuteman III nuclear missile silo near New Raymer in Colorado. He donned his signature clown costume and breached the fences that surround the silo. He hung banners on the fence. He knelt in his yellow wig, his one-piece blue jumper adorned with patches and smiley faces and his oversized red shoes. And he prayed. Carl, who has spend most of the past two decades in federal prison for more than a dozen



similar anti-nuclear-weapon protests, was led once again to jail, facing charges of criminal mischief and second-degree criminal trespass. The date was the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest, the 64th anniversary of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima, Japan. Carl said, he loves such symmetry.

Globalization is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon which must be grasped in the diversity and unity of all its different dimensions, including the theological dimension.