



SOCIAL JUSTICE KIT

WORLD PEACE DAY

SETTING THE SCENE

January 1, the Pope gives a message to the World for Peace Day.

Since 1968 this has been a way to teach about justice and peace.

Pope Paul VI asked “this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, that Peace ... may dominate the development... of events to come.”

In the years since, Popes have raised topics such as the dignity of the human person, human rights, the place of women, the rights of workers, the needs of developing countries, and more.

The message of his holiness Pope Francis for the celebration of the world day of peace on 1 January 2014 is “Fraternity, the foundation and pathway to peace”.



DISCUSSION:

What does “Peace” mean to you?

PEACEMAKING

Peacemaking is a Christian occupation (Luke 10:5; Matthew 5:9).

We need to make ourselves aware of the root causes of conflict in our world so that we can address the causes for discontent.

The God revealed by Jesus is a God of peace. Jesus renounced violence. He embodied nonviolence even to the point of suffering execution.

As he died, he forgave those who killed him, and surrendered his soul to God.

He told us to love one another, to love our enemies, to practice the all-encompassing compassion of God, and to seek God’s reign of justice.

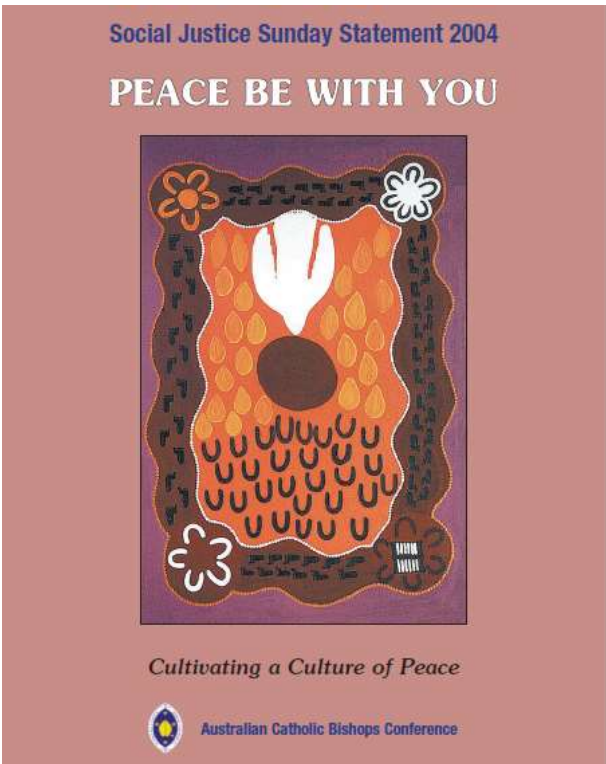
He taught that love is stronger than hate, that nonviolence is stronger than violence, and that life is stronger than death.

After his death, God raised him up and invited us to receive his gift of peace.

The risen Jesus sends us forth today to undertake his same journey.

DISCUSSION:

Who do you think of as a “Peacemaker”?



THE WORD OF GOD:

Select some passages from the Bible that relate to Peace

REFLECTION:

Share your Bible passages. Note some thoughts that come to mind

GROUP EXERCISE:

Where do I recognise peace in my community?

How can I see Christ in this peace?

ACTION: What can I/we do this week to further peace?
