

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Shirley Krull
January 1, 2015*

For most of us we are old enough to understand the first paragraph on the paper you have. We remember the V sign of peace. When we think of the high five greeting it brings a smile to our faces. Many times it is a high five with a small child – right?

I want in this homily to look at each finger of the high five Peace in a couple of ways:

1) from the Christian written Scripture, 2) from the scripture of lived lives from my reflections, 3) from the scripture of your lives that I will give you time to reflect on.

First finger – the thumb – I renamed the P of Peace as Persistence. When I think of peace makers I think of the persistence that is the bedrock of their Peace Lives. They never give up. The Christian scripture story that immediately came to my mind is found in Matthew 15. It is the mother pleading for her daughter: “Please look, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table to the floor.” And finally Jesus gets it! We think of the Persistence of a Nelson Mandela. In our community I think of the persistence of Sr. Beatrice Hernandez. She never gives up in her stance for peace and justice. Take a moment. Reflect. Who in your life is the persistent peace speaker; peace maker; peaceful presence?

Second finger – the Index finger – I renamed the E as Effort. When I think of peace makers I think of the Effort that is put forth. They work really hard! The Christian Scripture that I think of is from Mark chapter 10. Jesus has been working and praying with his disciples. Yet, they come and say “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you. Grant that in your glory, we may sit at your right and your left. Jesus responds with what he has been putting forth his effort for. “Whoever wishes to be great will be a servant.” In my scriptural life, the person I think of is Sr. Glenna. She willingly let herself be the servant of the community for the peace and justice effort. Yes, she educates; and yes, she puts her FULL EFFORT into

her community response. Take a quiet moment of reflection. Who in your life is the one who gives their full effort for peace in community, family, public life, and world?

Third finger – the middle finger – I renamed the A as Awareness. For me meaning Prayer – Active contemplation and contemplative Action. From the Christian Scripture I am taking Luke 11. A woman in the crowd cries out. She blesses the one who birthed Jesus; and he responds “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word and observe the word.” In my life scripture, I am brought to reflection of the present life scripture being lived by our Franciscan community. The call to gaze, consider, contemplate and imitate. Be silent for a moment. Who in your life is living the Scripture of Awareness of contemplation and action and bringing peace to our world and to your life?

Fourth finger – the ring finger – I did not rename the C of peace - Community. For many of us we symbolize the commitment to a community of living, whether religious, familial, the world community, service by wearing a ring. The Christian scripture that I want us to think about comes from Mark Chapter 6. He sends the disciples two by two. And tells them that if there is not a peaceful response to their coming, they are to leave and shake away the dust. There are voluminous stories in our community life of the work of many a twosome, foursome, etc. The stories that comes from the two Sisters in Metz, France being called to stay and work; to the twos that did housing preparation and ministry in our province. In your life, take a moment. What scripture is being lived in a communal way?

Fifth finger – the little finger – I also did not rename the final E - Endurance – The beautiful gift that some have and that some wish they had. The Christian Scripture I want us to consider is the Endurance of Mary Magdalene. She was at the cross, she was at the grave, she was by the tomb, she was in the rooms of the resurrection appearances. Some writers say that she probably did not leave the graveside after Jesus was buried. We can believe that endurance! And in my scripture life, I think of the endurance of my Mom and my Uncle. They stayed with their Christian baptismal evangelizing with the younger members of our family. And for you – take a moment – where is the scripture of your life with the little finger – the E of Peace – the Endurance of the Peace call.

And we pray for Peace: by praying the Peace Prayer attributed to Francis.