

October 24, 2016



While many of you were enjoying the Homecoming festivities last weekend, I had chosen to attend a Pax Christi Conference in Watertown. (*We often have to make choices, right?*) Our main speaker for that day was Father John Dear,

who reminded us that we are sisters & brothers to all people around the world. Many are suffering because of wars. John Dear called us to be nonviolent to ourselves, to each person we meet, and to be part of a grass-roots movement for nonviolence. He ended the day by quoting from St. Luke's Gospel (10: 1-21), "*I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves...*" That challenge stayed with me the rest of the day, and most of the night. I felt OK being a gentle lamb, but I did not want to be among the wolves. I preferred to stay safe, away from those wolves who were wanting to attack us. As I listened to the news that day I recognized we live in a world full of wolves, politicians who were telling us that we need to fight against the enemy. But I tried to remember that Jesus was sending us out as gentle '*lambs in the midst of wolves*'.

I finally fell asleep and the next morning as I sat to pray, I felt God's gentle peace in both the readings of the Mass and our Morning Prayer. "*Give us eyes to see your handiwork in all creatures...(both sinners & saints). Your measuring rod is love; give us a love that takes us out of, and beyond ourselves.... You know the strengths and weaknesses of the human heart. Share with us your patience and compassion, remind us that another may carry a cross beyond our imagining.*" I knew at that moment that God was not asking me to face the wolves in this world by myself. God was going to give me all the help I would need; or as a colleague of mine reminded me from Psalm 23: "*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...*"

The news reports and politicians may tell me something different, but God is calling us out to spread the gospel of non-violence. We tend to go along with the culture of war, spending trillions of dollars on weapons of mass destruction, but that is **not** what Jesus calls us to do. He calls us to be makers of peace.

Blessings to all of us as we strive to be makers of peace!

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