



# Check It Out

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January 2011



## WORLD DAY OF PEACE JANUARY 1, 2011



For over 40 years, the pope issues a World Day of Peace message that he delivers on January 1. For 2011, Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the title, "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace." The text of the message can be found on the Vatican website in various languages:

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/peace/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm).

USCCB and CRS have prepared a special flyer that can be used as a bulletin insert regarding the Pope's World Day of Peace message:

[www.usccb.org/sdwp/2011-01-01\\_world-day-of-peace-resource.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/2011-01-01_world-day-of-peace-resource.pdf).

### JUST POLICING, NOT WAR: AN ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE TO WORLD VIO-

LENCE (Book) Schlabach, Gerald W., Liturgical Press, 2007. Gerald Schlabach has proposed just policing theory as a way to narrow the gap between just war and pacifist traditions. If the world can address problems of violence through a police model instead of a conventional military model, there may be a role for Christians from all traditions. In this volume, Schlabach presents his theory and has invited a number of scholars representing Catholic, Mennonite, and other traditions to respond to the theory and address a number of key questions: What do we mean by policing? Can policing solve conflicts beyond one's own borders? How does just policing theory address terrorism? Is international policing possible, and what would it look like? Is just policing a Christian solution that meets the criteria of both traditions? This important volume offers a fresh and meaningful discussion to help Christians of all traditions navigate the difficult questions of how to live in these times of violence and war. (S,A).



### STONES INTO SCHOOLS: PROMOTING PEACE WITH BOOKS, NOT BOMBS, IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN (Book)

Mortenson, Greg, Viking, 2009. Greg Mortenson describes his efforts to promote peace throughout the world, and details how he was able to establish over 130 schools--mostly for girls--in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan with the backing of the Central Asia Institute--a nonprofit organization. (S,A)

A FORCE MORE POWERFUL (DVD, 174 min.) York Zimmerman Inc., 2000. Explores one of the 20th century's most important but least-understood stories - how nonviolent power has overcome oppression and authoritarian rule all over the world. The film introduces several extraordinary, but largely unknown individuals who drove these great events forward. Few who relied on nonviolent sanctions in the 20th century did so because of a principled attachment to nonviolence. Narrated by Ben Kingsley. (S,A).

### FORGIVENESS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: AN ALTERNATIVE ROAD TO PEACE (Book)

Bole, William, USCCB, 2004. Forgiveness has found an unlikely political footing in places such as South Africa, South Korea, and Northern Ireland. Monumental acts of forgiveness have helped offset the myriad forces of un-forgiveness, which include cycles of revenge and distorted memories, and have pointed the way to a "politics of forgiveness." Through interviews as well as accounts of formal dialogues, the book presents a broad mix of experiences and perspectives. It is a unique book that explores the important role of forgiveness in conflict resolution and peace. (S,A).

### THE NARROW PATH: WALKING TOWARD PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE (DVD, 108 min.)

San Damiano Foundation, 2007. A film set in the austere beauty of the New Mexico desert where Fr. John Dear, S.J., a peace activist and author/editor of over 20 books on peace and nonviolence, lives atop a mesa some 7 thousand feet into the air and talks about taking the Beatitudes of Jesus Christ and seriously living out the Gospel of nonviolence. And in the distance "the nuclear hellhole of Los Alamos"--FatherJohnDear.org. Cameos from Daniel Berrigan, Martin Sheen, Cindy Sheehan, and Ron Kovic. (S,A).

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*If religious freedom is the path to peace, religious education is the highway which leads new generations to see others as their brothers and sisters, with whom they are called to journey and work together so that all will feel that they are living members of the one human family, from which no one is to be excluded. (#4) --MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE JANUARY 1, 2011*

**FREE WORLD** (DVD, 39 min.) Ashley Michael Karitis, 2010. Follows the journey of repentance an 18-person interfaith delegation from Tacoma, Washington which traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki with one mission: To create a nuclear weapon free world. The documentary shows us that when we forget the past, we repeat it-but, that if we learn from our mistakes and unite in diversity, there is hope for a nuclear weapon free world. (S,A).

**A CULTURE OF LIFE AND THE PENALTY OF DEATH: A CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN TO END THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY** (DVD, 15 min.) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006. Learn about Catholic social teaching on the important issue of capital punishment. Hear from those who have been touched by violence, like Bud Welch, whose daughter died in the Oklahoma City bombing. Join the campaign to eliminate the use of the death penalty in the United States. (S,A)

**MOTHER TERESA'S PRESCRIPTION: FINDING HAPPINESS AND PEACE IN SERVICE** (Book) Wright, Paul A., Ave Maria Press, 2006. Recalling his encounters with Mother Teresa and her work in Tijuana and Calcutta, the author leads us to conclude that Mother Teresa had a prescription for happiness and peace, a universal message for all of us. She pointed Wright to the mandate issued by Jesus in Matthew 25 -- Just as you did it for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me. (S,A).

**THE TENT OF ABRAHAM: STORIES OF HOPE AND PEACE FOR JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND MUSLIMS** (Book) Chittister, Joan, Beacon Press, 2006. Three religious leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faith present the teaching of the Torah, Quran, and the Bible including the story of Abraham from all three texts. This book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Quran, and the Bible. It also weaves together the wisdoms of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions into a deeper, more unified whole. (S,A).



**YOU DID IT FOR ME: CARE OF YOUR NEIGHBOR AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** (Book) McKenna, Kevin E., Ave Maria Press, 2005. You Did It for Me breaks the mold and shows that when you live the social gospel you live the spiritual life. Author Kevin McKenna explains that his "underlying reason for writing this book is my belief that spirituality and social concern go hand in hand and that Jesus is our model. He spent much time in prayer, and then went forth in action." This model of prayer and action also helps dispel the commonly held understanding that only by praying and escaping from the world can we live a spiritual life. McKenna explores numerous aspects of the Church's social teaching-including care of creation, human life and dignity, call to community, and the dignity of work-and shows through example and reflection, how you too can grow spiritually in the midst of the world. (S,A).

**MARY OF NAZARETH, PROPHET OF PEACE** (Book) Dear, John, Ave Maria Press, 2003. In a time when our troubled world needs peacemakers more than ever, experience Mary's powerful message of peace and nonviolence. Walk through the events in her life and experience the power of her prayer and the prophetic model of her life. This is a book about us, a challenge to live a life of peace, a summons to proclaim to a violent world that we stand for something entirely different. It is a call for us to live a life steeped in prayer. Enhanced with evocative icons by William Hart McNichols, Mary of Nazareth, Prophet of Peace is a book that is eternal in its message and timely in its urgency. (S,A).

**WHAT DOES PEACE FEEL LIKE?** (Book) Radunsky, Vladimir, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. Simple text and illustrations portray what peace looks, sounds, tastes, feels, and smells like to children around the world. What does that word really mean? Ask children from around the world, and this is what they say.... (P,I).

**OLD TURTLE AND THE BROKEN TRUTH: A STORY** (Book) Wood, Douglas, Scholastic Press, 2003. Earth is full of suffering and war until one little girl seeks Old Turtle, who tells her about a "broken truth" and how mending it will help her community to understand the common bond of all humanity. (I,J).

**A MILLION VISIONS OF PEACE: WISDOM FROM THE FRIENDS OF OLD TURTLE** (Book) Garrison, Jennifer, Scholastic Inc., 2002. Touching, insightful messages from children combine with colorful pictures to create a captivating and thought-provoking treasure. An activity page at the end of each chapter invites readers to explore peacemaking in their own lives. (P,I)