

«Seek peace and pursue it.» (Ps 34:14)



Since PEACE is a gift from GOD to us, then we absolutely have to seek with all our strength to bring God into our life so as to experience true PEACE.

HOW AND WHERE TO FIND PEACE?

It requires us to do all our part to find peace by following the voice of our conscience which always urges us to choose what is good and not what is evil.

Peace Before All Else

Have you ever thought about what peace actually means



In the language used in the Bible, peace has many meanings, as for example, physical or spiritual wellbeing, or harmony among individuals and whole peoples. However, PEACE is above all a GIFT FROM GOD, through which we can discover the face of our Father who loves us.



HOW CAN WE BE BUILDERS OF PEACE



MAYBE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ALL THE GUN VIOLENCE OR THE WARS THAT CAUSE SO MUCH SUFFERING IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT EACH ONE OF US CAN DO SOMETHING TO HEAL THE WOUNDS AMONG PEOPLE AT HOME, IN SCHOOL AND IN SOCIETY AROUND US.



«If human beings are not in peace with God, the earth itself is not at peace. Religious people realize how much the earth 'suffers' when human beings have not used it according to the plan of God, but only for selfish interests or for an insatiable desire to possess.

It is selfishness and the desire to possess that contaminates the environment much more than any other kind of pollution, which is only the consequence of selfish human desires. [...]

When we discover that the whole of creation is a gift of our Father who loves us, it will be much easier to find a harmonious relationship with nature.

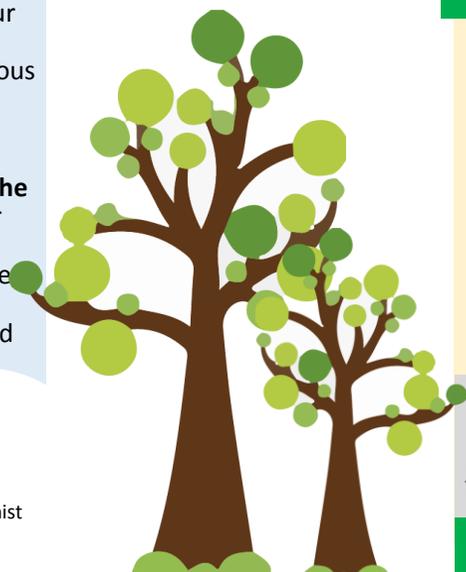
And when we realize that this gift is for all the members of the human family, and not just for some, we will give the right respect and attention to nature which belongs to all men and women on earth, both now and in the future».

This is what Chiara Lubich wrote in 1999 to Nikkio Niwano, founder of Rissho Kosei Kai, a Japanese Buddhist Movement.

Our Experiences:

I get angry very easily. One day, without even a good reason, I got very mad at the members of my group at school and went off by myself. Everyone came to talk to me, but I was so angry that I didn't want to be with anyone. That day we had decided to live an experience of ecology by planting some trees.

I knew it wasn't good for me to withdraw like that - but I was so mad!



Finally, I made a huge effort and decided to go and plant my tree. And then I accepted the invitation of the others to play volleyball with them. Little by little, while playing, I realized that I couldn't keep being angry because I was ruining everyone's day.

SO I SPOKE ABOUT IT WITH THE WHOLE GROUP. WE PROMISED THAT WE WOULD HELP EACH OTHER AND IF ANYONE GOT ANGRY, THE OTHERS WOULD TRY TO FORGET ABOUT IT RIGHT AWAY AND GO AHEAD BEING HAPPY (AND WE HAD PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO DO IT!)

In the end I saw that we managed quite well! This experience really helped me to grow and to understand that I can always start over again in every moment, and if I accept help from the others, it's even easier.

Brian – Mumbai, India - 14 yrs