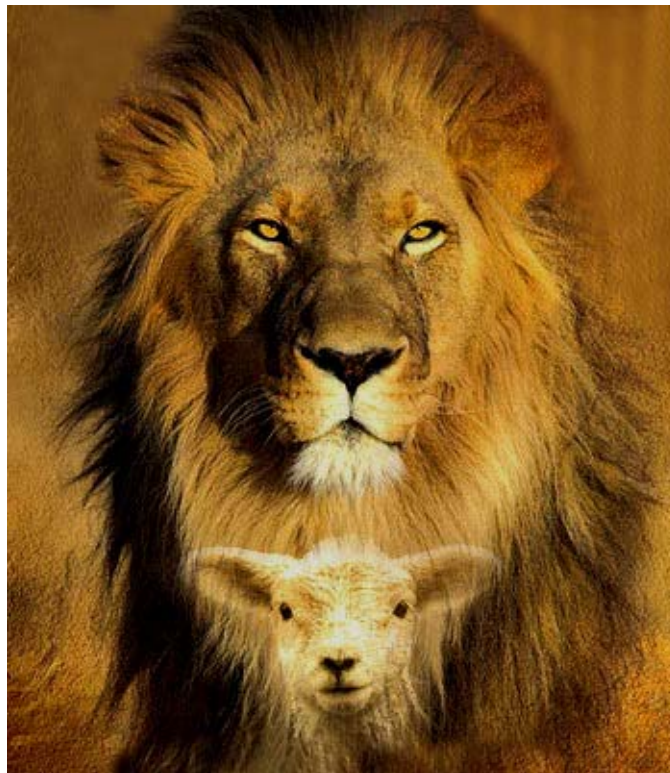


Lifetime Achievement Award for Justice and Peace



*"In the wilderness, justice will come to live,
And integrity in the fertile land.
Integrity will bring peace;
justice alone will give lasting security."*

Isaiah 32: 16-17

Presented to
Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton

June 29, 2007

**By the Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities,
Call To Action Minnesota, Dignity/Twin Cities,
Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates,
Inclusive Catholics, Twin Cities Peace Campaign - Focus on Iraq, Pax Christi
Twin Cities, and the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP)**

As representatives of various Minnesota peace and justice communities, we are humbled and honored to be with you and to pray with you today at this inaugural Prayer Breakfast for Hope and Justice. We are also very honored to be counted among your many friends and colleagues dedicated to doing the work of the Gospel around the world. But, most of all, we are honored and grateful to be able to present to you today this Lifetime Achievement Award for Justice and Peace.

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, throughout your life and through your ministry, you have inspired us with your vision of a world free of poverty and hunger, war and oppression. We recognize and honor the spirit of non-violence that infuses your life and inspires the lives of others. As our dear companion on the road to justice, peace, and love for all people and the earth itself, you have greatly contributed to the birthing of the “Kingdom” of God in the midst of oppression and violence.

Your opposition to war is grounded in the Gospel call for radical inclusiveness and active nonviolence. Rejecting the Christian doctrine of just war, you were among the first Church leaders in America to call for unconditional amnesty for those who resisted the Vietnam draft. You co-drafted the pastoral letter *Challenge of Peace* (1983). As the auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, you were the founding president of Pax Christi USA, the national arm of the widely respected international Catholic peace movement, which in 1992 honored you with its Ambassador of Peace Award. You served as president of Bread for the World from 1976 to 1984. You are also a co-founder of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. In 1991 you founded and continue to serve as the co-chair of the Catholic Caucus of Southeast Michigan, a “non-partisan advocacy group seeking economic justice for all in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.”

You have made innumerable journeys of peace to countless countries, including twelve visits to Haiti, eight trips to Iraq, five visits to Colombia. You have visited all of the countries of Central America as well as Hiroshima, Afghanistan, and Peru. You have made these journeys as a witness to the devastation and barbarity of war and violence, to investigate the treatment of political prisoners, to participate in humanitarian missions, and to serve as a delegate to international peace conferences. In 1979, you were part of a delegation sent to Iran to visit with American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Teheran. You have also testified as an expert witness in courts-martial of conscientious objectors and at trials of other peace activists.

When your own brother came out to you and your family as a gay man, you began yet another journey – one that led you to realize that the plight of LGBT persons was yet another justice and peace issue that the Gospel calls the Church and society to address. As a result of this special journey in conscience and compassion, you became one of the first members of the Catholic hierarchy to publicly denounce discrimination towards LGBT persons. Despite pressure from the hierarchy, you have shown great courage and integrity through your loyal dissent. You have continued writing and speaking out about the need to eliminate homophobia and to fully embrace LGBT persons and their families and to acknowledge their giftedness.

More recently, by coming out, yourself, as a victim of clergy sexual abuse, and by speaking out on behalf of the rights of other victims, you have given legitimacy and great support to so many whose lives have been decimated by professional and spiritual betrayal at the hands of those ordained to represent Jesus.

Therefore, with deep and sincere gratitude for your unwavering loyalty to our nonviolent God; your courageous recognition of the equality and human dignity of all persons, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other status; and for your life-long heroic commitment to bringing about peace by promoting justice, we honor you today as an exceptional role model for leadership. It is with the greatest honor that we present you with this Lifetime Achievement Award for Justice and Peace.