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Catholic Peace Fellowship - Reading Circle
Reading & Discussion Guide for
The Sign of Peace

Note to User: *How to Use the Reading & Discussion Guide*

This reading guide is intended to help parishes, schools, book clubs, and interested parties facilitate reflection and discussion on our journal, *The Sign of Peace*. The Catholic Peace Fellowship intends that the journal not only be a source of information, but also an educational aid that edifies the Church by guiding discussion and faith formation on issues of war, peace, and conscientious objection.

Due to the length and extensive content each issue of *The Sign of Peace* contains, covering the entire publication in one sitting may seem a bit difficult, even daunting. The reading guide will hopefully help to channel your discussion by applying specific questions to distinct articles; the format seeks to provide CPF Reading Circles with material for multiple gatherings in the weeks following the release of *The Sign of Peace*, hopefully yielding fruitful discussions on its diverse contents. Knowing that reading circles will differ, please utilize whichever questions are most appropriate for your group and setting.

The Catholic Peace Fellowship welcomes feedback and insights that arise from your discussions. Letters and emails to the staff expressing your reflections could be included on our website and in future issues, to the benefit of other reading circles and individual readers around the country.

Please find peace prayer resources for your discussion groups on the back of this letter.

Peace Prayer Resources

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of perfect peace,

Violence and cruelty can have no part with you.

May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them;
may those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen. -- From The Sacramentary

Prayer for Peace -- Pope John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace,
who are yourself our peace and reconciliation,
who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Enlighten our rulers
that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign over us all. Amen.



<http://peaceprayer.gn.apc.org/>

Franz Jägerstätter Prayer ¹

(Diocese of Linz, Austria)

Lord Jesus Christ, you filled your servant Franz Jägerstätter with a deep love for you, his family and all people. During a time of contempt for God and humankind you bestowed on him unerring discernment and integrity. In faith, he followed his conscience, and said a decisive NO to national socialism and unjust war. Thus he sacrificed his life. We pray that you may glorify your servant Franz, so that many people may be encouraged by him and grow in love for you and all people. May his example shine out in our time, and may you grant all people the strength to stand up for justice, peace, and human dignity. For yours is the glory and honor with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

¹ Franz Jägerstätter holy cards are available on the CPF website at www.catholicpeacefellowship.org