

PACEM IN TERRIS
PEACE
AND FREEDOM
AWARD

Saturday, April 2, 2016



DAVENPORT, IOWA

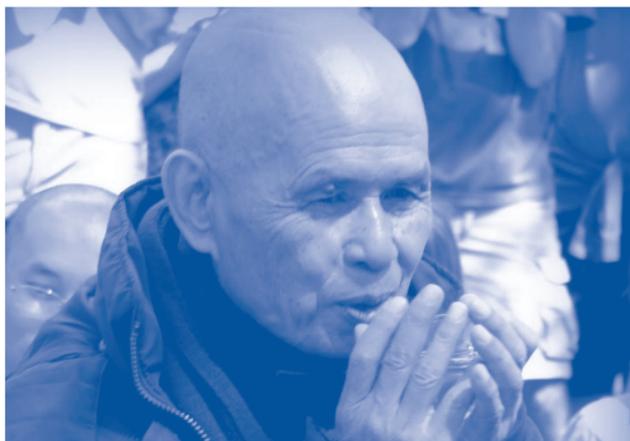


photo by Cathy Bolkcom

Venerable Thích Nhất Hạnh

Venerable Thích Nhất Hạnh, a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist Master, teacher, author and peace activist, is honored for his lifelong commitment to peace and for his inspired, dedicated work to bridge Eastern and Western spiritual traditions.

The Vietnam War forced Nhất Hạnh (Thay for Teacher) and the entire Buddhist community to confront “the question of whether to adhere to the contemplative life, meditating in their monasteries, or to help those suffering around them.” In 1965 Thay responded by developing socially “Engaged Buddhism,” which incorporated contemplative Buddhist practices with “Compassionate Action.” He founded the School of Youth for Social Services (SYSS), a grassroots student relief organization that practiced Compassionate Action by rebuilding bombed villages, burying the dead and establishing schools and medical centers. In that same year, he wrote to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., imploring him to speak out against the Vietnam War.

As Thay’s peace efforts escalated, so did the political risks. Thay was forced to flee Vietnam after an assassination attempt. He took refuge in France after his 1968 exile and established the Plum Village Sangha where he became one of the fathers of the Mindfulness movement. He also began teaching in the U.S. where he joined Dr. King (who nominated him for the 1967 Nobel Peace Prize) and other peace colleagues to advocate for an end to the Vietnam War.

As the Buddhist peace delegate, Thay witnessed the signing of the 1973 Paris Peace Accords. In 1976, he attended the World Conference on Religion and Peace in Singapore where he witnessed the plight of the Boat People, and organized efforts to rescue them.

Thay has continued to work for peace in both the East and the West—responding in 2005 and 2007 to racial tension in Los Angeles with Peace Walks and conducting the Great Bell Chant to mindfully bind the wounds of war in Vietnam.

“On the altar in my Hermitage in France are images of Buddha and Jesus, and every time I light incense, I touch both of them as my spiritual ancestors”

2015–16
PACEM IN TERRIS
PEACE AND FREEDOM
AWARD

PROGRAM

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Christopher Clow

WELCOME

Joan Lescinski, CSJ, PhD
President, St. Ambrose University

OPENING PRAYER

Leslie Kilgannon
Executive Director, Quad Cities Interfaith

LITANY HONORING PAST RECIPIENTS

St. Ambrose University students

INVITING THE BELL WITH THE LITANY

SuCo Liên Diệp
Kim Cang Temple

BIOGRAPHY OF THE RECIPIENT

Steve Spring
Ordained Member, Order of Interbeing

REFLECTION ON THE AWARD PRESENTATION

Most Rev. Martin Amos, DD
Bishop, Diocese of Davenport

VIDEO OF AWARD PRESENTATION IN CALIFORNIA

**INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT BELL CHANT AND
EXPLANATION OF BREATHING MEDITATION**

Joyce Singh
Ordained Member, Order of Interbeing

**VIDEO OF THE GREAT BELL CHANT:
END OF SUFFERING**

MOMENT OF SILENCE, BREATHING MEDITATION

*Please join us for a public reception
immediately after the ceremony.*

2015–16 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

is presented to

Venerable Thích Nhất Hạnh

by Bishop Martin Amos and the
Pacem in Terris Coalition of the Quad Cities in light of
your lifelong commitment to peace and justice.

You are the gentle fulcrum balancing Eastern and Western
spiritual traditions. Your key teaching is that, with the
practice of Mindfulness, we generate the energy to
live happily in the present moment.

Your pioneering Engaged Buddhism employs the energy of
Mindfulness to nurture self-understanding and forgiveness,
and compassionate action for the benefit of all, even our
enemies, and the earth. Your work to rebuild war-torn villages
in Vietnam and your advocacy for the refugee Boat People are
examples of your life of engaged Mindfulness.

You embody the words of Pope John XXIII in his encyclical
Pacem in Terris as a “spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying
heaven” to your sisters and brothers around the world.

Given on this 31st day of October 2015 at
Deer Park Monastery in California.

The Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award
was created in 1964 by the Davenport Catholic Interracial
Council. Since 1978, the award has been presented by
the Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition. The award
honors Pope John XXIII and commemorates his 1963
encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, which
called on all people to secure peace among all nations.

THE 2015–16 PACEM IN TERRIS

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTORS

Diocese of Davenport
St. Ambrose University
Augustana College
Quad Cities Interfaith
Churches United of the Quad City Area
Islamic Center of Quad Cities
The Catholic Messenger
Congregation of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of St. Benedict, Rock Island, Illinois
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa

PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

John F. Kennedy awakened in us a hope that no problem was too great to conquer—race relations, violence or poverty—when citizens work together. (1964, posthumous presentation)

John Howard Griffin's powerful book, *Black Like Me*, showed us how we are too often judged not by the content of our character but by the color of our skin. (1964)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us to dream of a world transformed through nonviolent civil rights activism. (1965)

R. Sargent Shriver, first director of the Peace Corps, taught us that one person can indeed make a difference. (1966)

A. Philip Randolph's efforts to organize railway employees convinced us that the dignity of work must be rewarded with a just wage. (1967)

Reverend James Groppi awoke people to the injustice of unfair housing and racial prejudice in Milwaukee. (1968)

Saul Alinsky taught people how to organize and to act together in promoting justice in society. (1969)

Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Worker Movement and reminded us to look for Christ in the faces of the poor. (1972)

Harold Hughes brought the message of the Gospel to the cause of equal education, civil rights and opposition to capital punishment. (1974)

Dom Hélder Câmara, gentle shepherd of the poor of northwestern Brazil, embraced the impoverished and gave sharp prophecy to the wealthy. (1975)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta gave hope to the desperate and offered light to those living in abject poverty. (1976)

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton challenged church leadership to embrace nonviolence instead of the just war theory. (1979)

Crystal Lee Sutton organized labor in the South and reminded us that equal work demands equal pay. (1980)

Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler advocated for the rights of workers and helped to buoy the labor movement among the poor in Appalachia. (1980)

George Kennan, statesman and diplomat, realized that the only hope for solving the world's problems lies in abandoning violence. (1982)

Helen M. Caldicott, Australian physician and peace advocate, spoke on behalf of the world's children in the face of possible nuclear holocaust. (1983)

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin through his notion of the “consistent ethic of life” and the “seamless garment” taught us that all life is God-given and therefore precious. (1985)

Bishop Maurice Dingman through his love for the land worked for peace and justice and reminded all of us of our roots in the soil. (1986)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has helped free South Africa from the yoke of apartheid, teaching the entire world that racial injustice is sacrilege. (1987)

Eileen Egan through her work with Pax Christi and Catholic Relief Services addressed the world's problems through missionary zeal and creative nonviolence. (1989)

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, peace advocate in Ireland, has become a global force against violence in the name of religion. (1990)

María Julia Hernández directed the Human Rights Committee and spoke for the victims of the long civil war in El Salvador. (1991)

Cesar Chávez led the United Farm Workers to become a passionate voice for workers who have long been disenfranchised. (1992)

Daniel Berrigan, SJ, American poet, peace activist and Catholic priest, has offered powerful witness on behalf of peace and justice. (1993)

Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners Christian Community, has brought people of faith to espouse radical social engagement. (1995)

Bishop Samuel Ruiz has lent great courage to his fight against violence and injustice inflicted against the poor and oppressed of Chiapas, Mexico. (1996)

Jim and Shelley Douglass—the only married couple to receive the award—have been steadfast in their efforts to build a world of peace based on justice. (1997)

Helen Prejean, CSJ, through her loving presence on death row has fostered reconciliation and spiritual healing. (1998)

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel has inspired the world with his Gospel-rooted work on behalf of Argentina's “disappeared ones.” (1999)

Monsignor George Higgins wove together communities of faith and organized labor to support economic justice. (2000)

Lech Walesa, defender of the rights of workers in the face of Communist repression in Poland, has become a global leader for freedom and democracy. (2001)

Dorothy Marie and Gwen Hennessey, OSF, sibling sisters and Dubuque Franciscans, have devoted their lives and ministry to local activism on global issues of peace and justice. (2002)

Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World, has shown how one person can make a difference alleviating world hunger. (2004)

Don Mosley of Jubilee Partners has served others by offering hospitality to refugees, housing for the homeless and mediation to situations of war. (2005)

Bishop Salim Ghazal has worked with Muslims and Christians to promote reconciliation, peace and hope for young people and others displaced by Lebanon's civil war. (2007)

Monsignor Marvin Mottet has devoted his life to walking the two feet of social action: direct service and social justice. (2008)

Hildegard Goss-Mayr is one of the world's leading experts on nonviolence, a teacher, visionary and pioneer who helped forge a new path toward peace on earth for all humanity. (2009)

Reverend John Dear, SJ, a Jesuit priest, has delivered the message of the nonviolent Jesus in word and deed in confronting nuclear arms manufacturing and use. (2010)

Bishop Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini has drawn the world's attention to the exploitation of natural resources by multinational companies adversely affecting the poor and indigenous people of Guatemala. (2011)

Kim Bobo, Executive Director and founder of Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ), has educated a nation about the prevalence of wage theft and injustice that disproportionately affects the poor amongst us. (2012)

Jean Vanier, religious and moral leader, philosopher and writer, is best known as the founder of L'Arche and strives to build caring relationships which foster the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities so they have a sense of belonging in the world. (2013)

Simone Campbell, SSS, raised awareness about social and economic transformation through the advocacy of NETWORK, a social justice lobby. (2014)

