Your final project is a 5-7 page integration essay. The aim of the essay is to reflect on one aspect of Christian peacemaking by engaging the three theological figures we have been considering throughout the semester: Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Pope Francis. Choose a topic, theme or question on which you would like to reflect. (This may be one you've already considered briefly in one of your short reflection papers. Perhaps class conversation has sparked your imagination about another topic we've discussed). Choose a theme and then reflect on that question by exploring how Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Pope Francis engage that question or offer insights on the topic. You will need to do some research outside of the readings we have engaged in class, but you are also welcome to draw on the required readings. (Many of Dorothy Day's writings can be searched at <http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/search.html#gsc.tab=0>. Many of Pope Francis' talks and homilies can be found by searching at: <http://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> and [https://zenit.org](https://zenit.org/)).

Papers must be typed, 5-7 pages, with either MLA or Chicago style formatting. Please hand in your final papers on or before our final class meeting on Tuesday, March 27th.

Carey Moran

Theo 375

Final Paper

In my lifetime, people will say how we are living in some of the worst destructive times in history. We have lived through 9/11, the rise of gun violence, increased destruction towards human life in work, medication. But in reality, throughout history, there has been war, destruction, injustice, conflict, between people, against people and towards others. People see differences between each others to be bad things, that one then become better than another. In some modern examples of where peaceful, non violent movements can lead to change; Martain Luther King Jr and the civil rights movements, Ghandi and the Indepence of India, Nelson Mandela with South African Aparteid, and the working Fr. Greg Boyle has done with the gangs in Los Angeles. With these movements people have had to heal and reconcile their difference and lament with each other to forgive what happened. Two people in the Catholic faith whom we saw exemplified and lived out these ways of nonviolence like the names just listed are Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

 When you are little and you get in a fight, it may be normal to have your parents to tell you to stop fighting, especially if you are physically hurting each other. For others though, the children may be doing that because they see if being done between adults in their life. That is what they see, that is the normal. When we are used to one way of life, one has to learn a new way of think, new way of going about how things are done.

 Thousands and thousands of people march each year for the end of abortion in the United States. Something that violentently kills and unborn child and gives the mother issues for years to come, we peacefully march to end, it may be 40 years that people have been working to reverse the Roe V Wade decision, and they will continue to work towards the end.

Due to recent events in the United States, there continues to be the great push for gun reform because of gun violences. The push back that some give is because of the second amendment of the constitution, the right to bear arms. So how can we have this right, and yet put restrictions on those right.

The men and women I mentioned above, all worked towards peace through nonviolence. These men and women are who the young people of today’s March for our Lives, protesting for better gun control in our country.

One argument within the argument is about mental health care in our country. Which was not a topic that would have been on the forefront of these other peacemakers. But what Dorothy Day would say about it would be to still treat and interact each person we encounter . To this we can talk about other parts of our culture, that is that we are disconnected to each other. When the students from Parkland Florida organize the walk out of schools in March, some people took to social media that instead of walk out, we should walk up to those students who are marginalized at their own school. Schools should be a place where young people feel safe to be and safe to be able to talk to others around them growing up about things going on in the world.
 Pope Francis has been a strong voice in our time to support non-violence and to support the young people urging them not to silences their voices to older generations. This resembles with the young people who protest the Vietnam war . That the young people do hold power to making change happen. In his address on the World Day of Peace on January Pope Francis speaks:
 *Violence is not the cure for our broken world. Countering violence with violence leads at*

*best to forced migrations and enormous suffering, because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all. (O’Rouke)*

After the Parkland shooting in February, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, released their statement and reminded people on what they support:

 a federal ban on assault weapons, limitations on civilian access to high-capacity

weapons and ammunition magazines, further criminalizing gun trafficking, certain limitations on the purchase of handguns, and safety measures such as locks that prevent children and anyone other than the owner from using guns without permission (Domestic Justice).

That the voices of these young people are ones of peace and nonviolence as they describe the peaceful future that they aspire. We must remember what is at stake when raising our voice to violence, the safety of a human life. In the words of St. John, 'let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1 Jn. 3:18).

Dorothy Day was one to protest air raid drills in New York City and be jailed for doing so. So would not participating in a active shooter drill in school be the equivalent to what Dorothy did in the streets of NYC? What would happen if these active shooter drills became an more of city or county wide drills like a tornado drill is in the Midwest? These drills, both the air raid and active shooter, are done for the safety of the people to know what to do for the slight chance that it would happen. But would giving in, give in to the violence that the shooter is trying to instigate in us, fear. We leave the hard work of stopping the shooter and disarming them, to the police and swat when they arrive to a scene. Why don’t we learn ways in trying to stop these people in their tracks in a non-violent way?

Another topic that Dorothy had strong voice for, and that is still a topic that is a strong social issue in our country today, abortion and birth control. Even though when Dorothy as a young women did have an abortion, her beliefs strongly changed later in life when she became Catholic, yet many didn’t know of her own abortion until after her own death. She called the use of birth control and abortion of being a genocide. She didn’t openly speak much about her views on the topic, but when she did she spoke about in terms of forgiveness not criminality (Terrell). Again speaking to her nature of treating people with peace and dignity.

In our culture we see a division between those who you see at the march for life to the march for our lives to those in the women’s mach and #metoo movement. When Dorothy and Thomas would want peace and unity in our country surrounding the dignity of every human we interact with on a daily basis.

Work Cited

“Domestic Justice and Education Chairmen Urge.” *New Releases*, USCCB, 5 Mar. 2018,

www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-046.cfm.

O’Rourke, Michael B. “A Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence.” *Backgrounder on*

*a Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence*, USCCB, Mar. 20118,

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/backgrounder-on-gun-violence.cfm.

Terrell, Brian. “Dorothy Day: 'We Are Not Going into the Subject of Birth Control at All as a Matter

of Fact'.” *National Catholic Reporter*, National Catholic Reporter, 30 Sept. 2015,

www.ncronline.org/news/people/dorothy-day-we-are-not-going-subject-birth-control-all-matter-fact.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/distinctly-catholic/catholic-social-doctrine-sheds-light-how-combat-gun-violence>