

# Committed to PEACE

In 1983, the U.S. Catholic Bishops published a letter titled “The Challenge of Peace.” In this pastoral letter, the bishops reminded Catholics in the United States, and all people of good will, that Christ calls everyone to seek peaceful solutions during conflicts and to avoid violence.

The letter states, “Because we have been gifted with God’s peace in the risen Christ, we are called to our own peace and to the making of peace in our world.”

One of the most basic characteristics of the Kingdom of God is peace. When the Kingdom of God is complete, all creatures will live in peace with one another.

In the Gospel of Mark, the evangelist knew the importance of emphasizing that God’s reign of peace is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus announced at the beginning of his ministry:

*This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.* MARK 1:15

## ▶ Why is peace part of God’s Kingdom?

When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we join with our bishops in praying for unity and peace. In doing so the Church promotes and prepares for the coming of the Kingdom.







