



St. Sebastian Parish

476 MULL AVENUE * AKRON, OHIO 44320-1299 * stsebastian.org

A CALL TO CONVERSION:

MONDAY LENTEN FORUM SERIES MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

"Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent revolt of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty." – Bishop Oscar Romero (1917 - 1980)

All programs will be held in Zwisler Hall, 500 Mull Avenue from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and will begin with a prayer service.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 – Where There is Darkness... Light

- Speaker: Karen Pezza Leith, Ph.D., Executive Director, Catholic Commission

MONDAY, MARCH 5 – Where There is Hatred... Love

- Speaker: Sr. Diana Culbertson, OP, Dominican Sister of Peace, Professor Emeritus, Kent State University

MONDAY, MARCH 12 – Where There is Doubt... Faith

- Speaker: Rev. Gordon A. Yahner, Pastor Emeritus, St. Hilary Parish

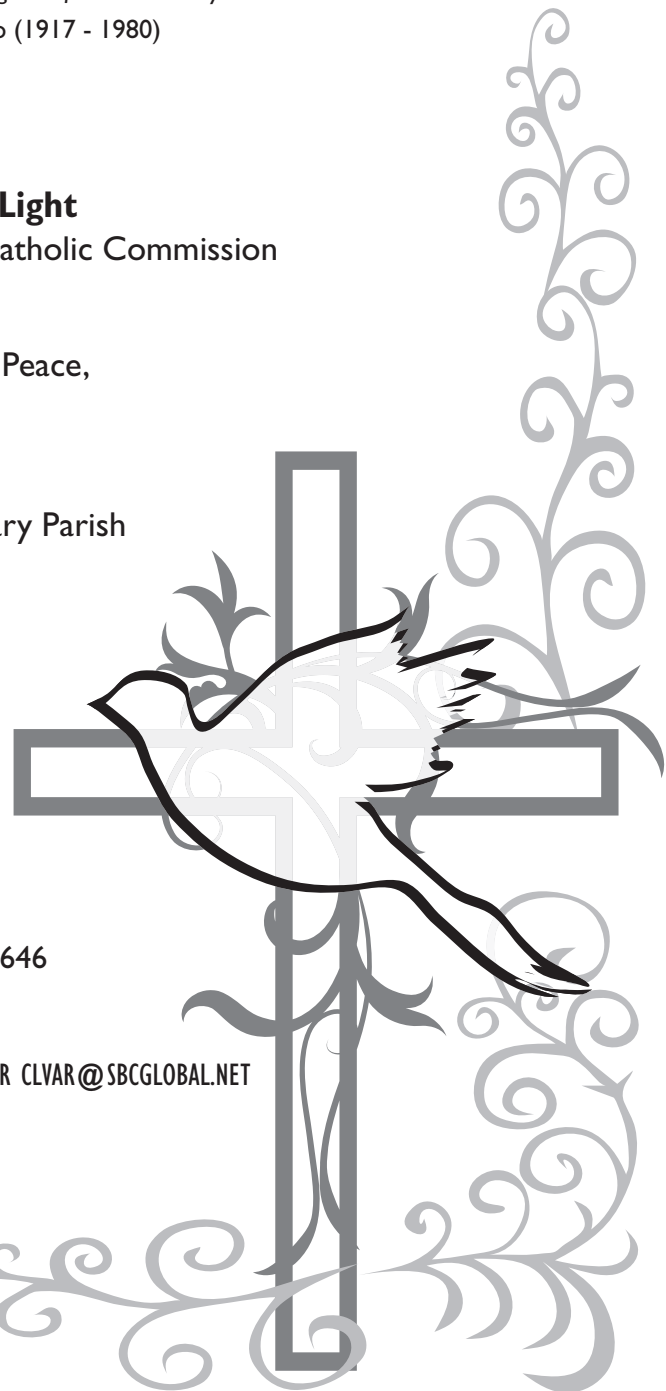
MONDAY, MARCH 19 – Where There is Despair... Hope

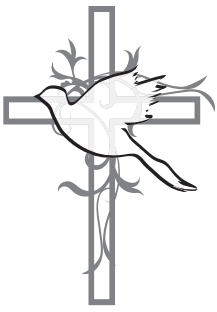
- Speaker: Richard D. Clark, Ph.D., Sociology & Criminology Department
Director, Peace, Justice & Human Rights Program,
John Carroll University

FREE BABYSITTING IN SCHOOL LIBRARY

Questions? Please contact
Mary Myers Tschantz at 330-864-0646
or tschantz.mary@att.net

PLEASE RSVP FOR BABYSITTING TO CAROLYN VARNER 330-864-5267 OR CLVAR@SBCGLOBAL.NET





MONDAY LENTEN FORUM SERIES

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

DR. KAREN P. LEITH has been associated with the Catholic Commission since 1984 as board member and then chair; she was named Director in 2010. She also serves as director of Call to Renewal of Summit County. Karen is a certified pastoral minister, social psychologist, author, and educator. She has taught adjunct at both John Carroll University and Baldwin Wallace College in psychology and religious studies. She has served as a Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, Director of Religious Education, and a high school teacher, receiving much recognition for her work in all these areas. Karen holds a BA in mathematics and economics from Brown University, a MA in religious studies from John Carroll University, a MA in psychology and a PhD in experimental psychology from Case Western University. She has a Certificate and an Advanced Certificate in Youth Ministry from the Center for Ministry Development in Connecticut. Karen studied for a summer at the American College of Louvain. Trained in the deliberative process, Karen has conducted, modeled, and taught the deliberative process in both forum and study circle models for the National Issues Forums Institute, a program of the Kettering Foundation in Dayton.

DR. DIANA CULBERTSON, O.P., is professor emeritus at Kent State University. She received her Ph.D., in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., and a M.A. in Theology from Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, MO. She has taught at Kent State University in the department of English, and was director there of the graduate program in Liberal Studies. She directed the Kent-in-Florence program, was visiting professor of religious studies at the University of Houston and summer lecturer at Aquinas Institute of Theology. She is a former president of the International Colloquium on Violence and Religion. Her publications include *The Poetics of Revelation: Recognition and the Narrative Tradition*, *Rose Hawthorne Lathrop: Selected Writings*; *Invisible Light: Poems about God*. Her published works at the Center for Learning in Villa Maria, PA include *God in a World of Violence*, *The Meaning of Faith*, *The Meaning of Hope*, *The Scandal of the Parables*, and *The Body of Christ*. Her articles have appeared in numerous journals, including *Contagion: Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture*; *Southern Humanities Review*; *Christianity and Literature*; *Italian Culture*; *The Merton Annual*, *Cross Currents*, and *Religion and Literature*. She recently served as the vicarress (vice-president) of her religious congregation, the Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron, OH. She is presently a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, founded in 2009 as a union of seven religious congregations.

REV. GORDON A. YAHNER, whose parents were founding members of St. Sebastian Parish, graduated in 1951 from St. Sebastian School. Fr. Yahner was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Cleveland on May 18, 1963 while the Second Vatican Council was still in session and the Vietnam War was just beginning. After burying three young men killed in Vietnam and sensing the futility of war, Fr. Yahner began to question the Catholic Church's support of the war in Vietnam. His ten year assignment as Newman Chaplain at Cuyahoga Community College and his participation in the Peace Movement of the '60s moved him in the direction of non-violence as a gospel alternative to the Just War theory of Catholic theology. He was a founding member of the Cleveland chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the first organization to receive a Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. Wherever he has been assigned as a priest, he has carried the message of non-violence and peace for all people through justice.

DR. RICHARD D. CLARK received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York in criminal justice and is currently the director of the John Carroll University's Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program. His research interests include the operation of the criminal justice system, the death penalty, the study of forgiveness, and human rights violations. Dr. Clark was one of four faculty members who participated in the inaugural trip on "Conflict Transformation and Peace Building" to Northern Ireland and recently was a faculty leader on a similar trip to South Africa. In 2004, Dr. Clark, along with several colleagues, was given an "Award of Achievement" from *Northern Ohio Live* magazine for promoting death penalty issues. Along with departmental colleague, Dr. Wendy Wiedenhoft, he was awarded the "2006 Bilateral Cooperation Award" by the British Chamber of Commerce for work on conflict transformation in Northern Ireland. Dr. Clark also received the "2007 Curtis W. Miles Community Service Award", given by the Faculty Development Committee of JCU. Dr. Clark has been selected as a 2011 Carl Wilkens Genocide Fellow by the Genocide Intervention Network. He is one of 55 community leaders throughout the US who are charged with building "permanent anti-genocide constituency willing and able to protect civilians from mass atrocities". Dr. Clark is also the Board President of the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America. IRTF is a Cleveland based organization that promotes peace and human rights in Central America and Columbia. It was founded by people of faith and conscience after the 1980 murder of four US churchwomen in El Salvador.