



*A collection of reflections that have a theme of hope and justice. These reflections might be used during the Campaign in teachers' bulletins, parent newsletters or with senior classes.*

There is nothing so much like God  
In all the universe  
as silence.

**Meister Eckhart,  
German (c. 1260-1327)**

The person that does good works is indeed  
This orchard bearing good fruit.  
And this is just like the earth  
With its ornamentation  
Of stone and blossoming trees.

**Hildegard of Bingen  
German (1098-1179)**

Then he was told:  
Remember what you have seen,  
Because everything forgotten  
Returns to the circling winds.

**Lines from a Navajo chant, America.**

If you keep your mind from judging  
And aren't led by the senses,  
Your heart will find peace.

Seeing into darkness is clarity.  
Knowing how to yield is strength.  
Use your own light  
And return to the source of light.  
This is called practicing eternity.

**Lao-tzu, Chinese (c. 600 BCE)**

The measure of a country's greatness  
should be based on how well it cares  
for its most vulnerable populations

**Mahatma Ghandi**



In Haiti people are fond of using proverbs, and there's a particular one that aptly describes the situation of people in the dusty border town of Ouanaminthe: 'Woch nan dlo pa konn doule woch nan soley', which is a Haitian creole expression meaning:

'The rock in the water doesn't know the suffering of the rock in the sun.'

In this world  
The living grow fewer  
The dead increase  
How much longer  
Must I carry this body of grief?

**Ono No Komachi**  
**Japanese (b. 834?)**

A white explorer in Africa,  
Anxious to press ahead with his journey,  
Paid his porters for a series of forced marches.  
But they, almost within reach of their destination,  
Set down their bundles and refused to budge.  
No amount of extra payment  
Would convince them otherwise.

They said they had to wait  
For their souls to catch up.

**Bruce Chatwin**  
**English (1940-1989)**

God intended the earth and all it contains  
for the use of everyone and of all peoples,  
So that the good things of creation should be available to all.

**Gaudium et Spes, #69 (Vatican 11)**

I want you to share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor, remove the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free.

**Isaiah 58: 6-7**

Our lives begin to end the day  
we become silent  
about the things that matter

**Martin Luther King**



A just future for peoples must be the primary concern of those who have undertaken to manage public affairs, not in their own interest but with a view to the common good. Our heart cannot be at peace while we see our brothers and sisters suffering from lack of food, work, a home or the other fundamental goods.

***Pope Benedict XVI, Address at the Presentation for the Letters Accrediting New Ambassadors to the Holy See. 2005***

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.  
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.  
Peace is not the silent result of violent oppression.  
Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.  
Peace is dynamism.  
Peace is generosity.  
It is right and duty.

**Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered at the altar San Salvador, March 24, 1980.**

*To know when you have enough is to be rich.*

**Lao Tzu**

We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate --- thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising.

**Maya Angelou, Nobel Prize Winner.**

If your brothers and sisters have nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, "Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well-fed," but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that?

***James 2:15-17***

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; sick, and you took care of me; in prison, and you came to visit me.

***Matthew 25: 35-36***

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do so with gentleness and reverence.

### **1Peter 3.13**

Jesus, at the sight of the crowds, was moved with pity. (Matt. 9:36) Moved like Jesus with compassion for the crowds, the Church today considers it her duty to ask political leaders and those with economic and financial power to promote development based on respect for the dignity of every man and woman.

### **Pope Benedict XVI (Lent 2006)**

If we have no peace, it's because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

### **Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world - indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

### **Margaret Mead**

“God permit that the symbol of my life be a candle, that spends itself, that consumes itself while there is still wax to burn; when nothing more remains to be consumed, that my flame, yet an instant, dare to remain alive and afoot, to rumble after, happy in the conviction that one day the force of Right will conquer the pretended right of force.”

### **Dom Helder Camara**

Charity is commendable; everyone should be charitable. But justice aims to create a social order in which, if individuals choose not to be charitable, people still don't go hungry, unschooled or sick without care. Charity depends on the vicissitudes of whim and personal wealth; justice depends on commitment instead of circumstance. Faith-based charity provides crumbs from the table; faith-based justice offers a place at the table.

### **Bill Moyers**

### Living on the edge reflections:

Come to the edge. We might fall. Come to the edge.  
It's too high!  
Come to the edge!  
And they came, and he pushed them gently..... and they flew.

Live with intention. Walk to the edge.  
Listen hard. Practice wellness. Walk to the edge.  
Choose with no regret. Walk to the edge.  
We stand today on the edge of a new frontier.

Sail close to the wind.  
In this life, we only go around once

In order to find the edge, you must risk going over the edge

When you come to the edge of all the light you have, and must take a step into the darkness.

Be the change you want to see in the world

If you aren't living on the edge, then you are taking up too much space.