

Just War

VIDEO LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWDT5pCxaB0>

GOAL SUMMARY

The goal of this session is to help educate young people on the Church's teaching on war. In some circumstances, if it is absolutely necessary and as a last resort, going to war is permitted in Catholic teaching. Though a war may be defined as 'just', recourse to violence should always be done with trepidation and not without sufficient consideration of alternatives. As Christians we believe in loving our neighbor, which should motivate us to help solve problems before it has a chance to lead to war.

VIDEO SUMMARY

This video explains (using written word, no speech) the Church's teaching on what constitutes a just war. For more information, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph 2309.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why are some wars necessary, according to St. Augustine?
2. Even though it is a largely Christian philosophy, why can the just war theory be used by anyone of any (or no) faith?
3. If we break down each of St. Thomas Aquinas' criteria for a just war, what would each of them mean? (War would need to be waged by a legitimate authority, have a just cause and the right intentions)
4. Why are these three criteria so important?

SEND

Today we have taken a few minutes to learn about the Church's teaching on what constitutes a just war. While war is never desirable, there are certain conditions that, when met, may justify and allow for military action, in the interest of the common good of all peoples.

In closing, read aloud the following prayer and allow the young people a few moments to meditate on the message. Peace Prayer (attributed to St. Francis)

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life. Amen