1969 Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Awards Banquet

Davenport Catholic Interracial Council

May 13, 1969
"The only thing you get is what you're strong enough to get—so you had better organize... You prove to people they can do something, show them how to have a way of life where they can make their own decisions—and then you get out. They don't need a father who stands over them... It comes down to the basic argument of the Federalist papers. Either you believe in the people, like James Madison and James Monroe, or you don't, like Alexander Hamilton. I do... I do not believe that democracy can survive, except as a formality, if the ordinary citizen's part is limited to voting—if he is incapable of initiative and unable to influence the political, social, and economic structures surrounding him."

Racial discrimination can in no way be justified... Thus, he who possesses certain rights has likewise the duty to claim those rights as marks of his dignity, while all others have the obligation to acknowledge those rights and respect them.” Pope John XXIII in Pacem in Terris.

Pope John XXIII

The Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award

By establishing the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award, the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council intends to commemorate one of the most notable events in the modern history of Christianity—the publication of the encyclical PACEM IN TERRIS. Further, we intend to honor the person of Pope John XXIII, a man who for a brief time was truly the leader of all men of good will, Protestant, Catholic, Jew, and non-believer. Finally, we intend that this award proclaim the inseparable connection between freedom, equality, and peace in the lives of all people.

Since the creation of the award in 1964, on the first anniversary of publication of Pacem in Terris, both Pope John and his encyclical letter have grown in stature and meaning. The name of the good Pope has become a household word for all men, believers and non-believers alike. The germinal concepts of the historic encyclical—the dignity of the human person, liberty of conscience, the progressive evolution of political doctrines, the realization of human society in freedom, cessation of the arms race, world government, are ever more widely appreciated throughout the world.

More specifically, for Catholics the world over, Pope John and his encyclical Pacem in Terris combine with the Second Vatican Council to provide the foundation of the present, ongoing renewal of Christian life and practice. Christians will again be prophetic.

It only remains for us now to seize the opportunity. The dynamic human force liberated by Pope John and these events can and hopefully will change the world as each individual fearlessly and with a new confidence assumes, under God, the mastery of his/her own life. We shall overcome, and we shall be free.
BISHOP GERALD O'KEEFE
Bishop of Davenport

"We must have respect for just laws, and we do need social order for the common good. But, with all the concern about violence in the streets, we must not overlook something even more serious -- that violence inherent in our social system, a violence that is part of our history, built into our social, economic, political, and even religious systems. This systemic violence has for hundreds of years destroyed family life, human dignity and self respect, and has prevented the exercise of political, economic, and social rights. This violence stretches from the unjust treatment of Indians in the earliest days of our nation through more than 250 years of the most vicious slavery known to recorded history, down to today's racial injustice and disregard for the poor."

"The Church itself must examine all its policies and postures to rid itself of every last vestige of racism. We must always act on the basis that human rights come before property rights, and that people are more important than things. The Church must stand with the oppressed and disadvantaged or it is not faithful to the Gospel of Christ."


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Prior Awards

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated. If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot eat in a restaurant open to the public, if he cannot send his children to the best public schools available, if he cannot vote for the public officials who represent him, if, in short, he cannot enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand in his place? Who among us would then be content with the counsels of patience and delay?

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"Racism discrimination based on skin color has grown strong, hard, and bitter throughout the length and breadth of America. Racists who claim to be anti-Communists are doing the Communists' work magnificently well by showing the world our racist abuses and thereby turning the world from us in disgust."

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"Before the victory is won somebody else may have to face physical death. If physical death is the price some must pay to free their children from a permanent death of the spirit then nothing can be more redemptive."

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"Yes, we shall overcome; we are not afraid; the Lord will see us through."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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1964
1964
1965
Prior Awards

It is because of men and women like you, the Catholic Interracial Council, that we are going to win the War on Poverty.

The Church, all the churches collectively, and individually, are dropping what some have jokingly called its "edifice complex" and have set about to "walk with the poor."

We're working for something else too. We're working for a sense of community that brings all Americans of all races and creeds together in a common cause, the cause of humanity, the cause of the poor and the underprivileged.

--Sargent Shriver

Donald F. Hermann, 1610 Elmwood Ave., Bettendorf, Public Relations Director for Caterpillar Tractor Co., for outstanding work in the employment, training, and upgrading of the hard core unemployed. The award also recognizes the Caterpillar Tractor Company's "affirmative action in equal opportunity employment."

James Spencer, 2211 Ridge Drive, Davenport, for pioneer efforts to adapt curriculum to the needs of children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and for efforts to implement federal programs which provide special aids for children from low-income families.

James Eberle, 1905 W. 40th, Davenport, for his knowledgeable and thorough reporting of news regarding civil rights and poverty.

Alvino Pena, 802 W. 5th St., Davenport, for his work in athletics and physical fitness among youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"Mass, fasting, and lighting candles does not fulfill your Christian obligation. You must involve yourself as Christ did. The peace of Jesus Christ was the peace of inner-conviction. He preached the peace of human dignity. He never meant that creative tension should be removed from the earth. He didn't say that he came to bring peace to the earth — that's part of the white lie — but rather to cast a sword upon the earth. You must be revolutionaries. Christ was a revolutionary. That's why he ended upon a cross."

--Fr. James Groppi
Program

Toastmaster .......................... Dr. Henry Philmon
Invocation ................................ Rev. Robert Crum
Pastor, Christ Methodist Church, Davenport

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

MERIT AWARDS –
- to Donald F. Hermann – presented by Charles W. Toney
- to James Spencer – presented by Ralph D. Beal
- to James Eberle – presented by Phyllis Gaines
- to Alvino Pena – presented by Simon Roberts

PRESENTATION OF 1969 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD
- to Saul David Alinsky – presented by John Schneiders,
  President, Davenport Catholic Interracial Council

RESPONSE by Saul Alinsky

WE SHALL OVERCOME

BENEDICTION .......................... Pastor Emmett L. Wiseman
  Progressive Baptist Church, Davenport

PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD PRESENTATION

GENERAL CHAIRMAN ............................ John Schneiders

COMMITTEES

TICKET COMMITTEE ........................ Mrs. Gordon Flynn,
  Mrs. Charles Toney,
  Mrs. Cecile Cooper,
  Mr. Dan Bray

AWARDS .......................... Dr. Erwin Keller

PROGRAM .......................... Rev. Marvin A. Mottet

ADVERTISING ........................ Frederick Epstein

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and the

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