



Day 58

Beloved Peacekeepers,

Today, our practice is the wholeness of community. We look through the lens of citizenship.....Citizens of/to the World. Ones who hold the key for generations to come - a world where "isms" are no more.....a world where all have have equal rights, support, health, and supply.....

Today's Principle, Today's Practice - CITIZENSHIP

Robert Muller, former assistant secretary general to the UN urges, "Use every letter you write, every conversation you have, every meeting you attend, to express your fundamental beliefs and dreams." Today call or write one of your legislators and register your views.

Ask yourself: What does citizenship mean? What does an immigrant have to do to become a citizen in this country? What do you think the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are? What kind of citizen do you think you are? In this country? In your community/communities? And why? Is citizenship important? Is there those in your community that are not citizens of this country -- what are their views of citizenship? What does it mean to be a "global citizen," or "citizen of the world"?

What does this quote mean to you: Do we...mock democracy each time we back away, each time we fail to participate actively in the struggles for transformation of your institutions and of this nation, in the defense of the poor, in the protection of the environment, in the question of our political leaders, in the teaching of ourselves and our children.....?" Vincent Harding

Activity - Express your citizenship today - write a letter to a National Congressperson or a State Assemblyperson on a current topic of interest in your community - encourage your friends to do the same - notice how we do not all have to agree on the topic to be active citizens (email addresses are available on line).

In your neighborhood, see if there are non-citizens, ask them about the customs of citizens in their country - compare and contrast.

Learn about the children of Columbia who changed the course of their countries future with their intense commitments to citizenship - see the video *Soldiers of Peace*.

Be a good citizen today - make an effort to be an excellent citizen yourself - leave every place you go in better shape than when you arrived - do you notice a difference at the end of the day?

Journal Activity: Journal your thoughts....today, use crayons or color pens - live differently and vibrantly!

Consider this Quotes on Citizenship:

Socrates ... said he was not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world - Plutarch

The most important office ... that of private citizen - Louis D Brandeis

Now the trumpet summons us again -- not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need -- not as a call to battle, though embattled we are -- but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle year in and year out, "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation" -- a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty and war itself - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Citizenship consists in the service of the country - Jawaharlal Nehru

The noblest question in the world is, What good can I do in it?"
- Benjamin Franklin

"At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil-no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of the point." - Sir Winston Churchill

We cannot be indifferent or cynical about the obligations of citizenship. Our political choices should not reflect simply our own interests, partisan preferences or ideological agendas, but should be shaped by the principles of



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our faith and commitment to justice, especially to the weak and vulnerable. - US Catholic Bishops

Regardless of the country we have our citizenship - each of us is a citizen of the World - as such, what actions are we taking to insure all people everywhere enjoy the same, if not better conditions than we experience this day. Be an active citizen, let your views be known - make a difference this day!

Blessings,

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