**Instruments of Reconciliation**  
SAMPLE LETTER

Title/Name of recipient:  
Address of recipient:  
Date:

Greetings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (title) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name),

I hope you are well.

I am a Catholic parishioner in your diocese at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parish and any other personal connection).

On the anniversary of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishop’s document “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise our Response, “ (or other dates as suggested if appropriate), I write to share with you about the urgent need for our beloved Church to make a greater commitment to active nonviolence. From the depths of my heart as a committed disciple, I invite you to clearly and frequently affirm active nonviolence as the nucleus of the Christian revolution by: 1) sharing and speaking about Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace message “*Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*” broadly within your diocese, seminaries, and other ministries, and 2) concretely committing to an initiative to scale-up practices of active nonviolence.

As Pope Benedict wrote, “For Christians, nonviolence is not merely tactical behavior but a person’s way of being, the attitude of one who is so convinced of God’s love and power that he or she is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone. Love of one’s enemy constitutes the nucleus of the ‘Christian revolution.’”

(Share a personal story or issue of concern that illustrates the need for cultivating a culture of active nonviolence.)

The Archdiocese of Chicago offers one model with their initiative toward a culture of nonviolence, which Pope Francis recently affirmed in an April 4th letter.[[1]](#footnote-1) Other key practices to consider scaling-up can include nonviolent communication, restorative circles, trauma-healing, unarmed civilian protection, nonviolent resistance, truth and reconciliation commissions, inter-religious dialogue, educational courses on Gospel nonviolence, etc.

I encourage you to embrace Pope Francis’ call to grow in active nonviolence. I want to support your efforts, like Pope Francis, who pledged the assistance of the church in “every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence.” Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

In God’s Grace,

(name)

1. <https://www.archchicago.org/documents/70111/70579/Pope%27s+Letter/819bc1e7-a926-4717-991a-f545e488500d> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)