

Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award: Presentation Remarks

WE HAVE COME HERE TONIGHT TO HONOR A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

THE PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE PAST TWO DECADES TO ELEVEN SUCH PERSONS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY, RACIAL EQUALITY, AND PEACE AMONG ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.

THE PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD WAS CREATED IN 1964 TO HONOR THE PERSON OF POPE JOHN XXIII, AND TO COMMEMORATE THE PUBLICATION OF HIS ENCYCLICAL, PACEM IN TERRIS, WHICH PROCLAIMS THE INSEPARABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND PEACE IN THE LIVES OF ALL PEOPLE.

THE PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD, IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WAS GIVEN BY THE CATHOLIC INTERRACIAL COUNCIL OF DAVENPORT. THE CIC WAS FORMED IN 1957 IN THE DAVENPORT AREA TO WORK TOWARD SOLUTIONS OF OUR LOCAL PROBLEMS IN THE AREA OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

THE CIC WAS DISBANDED IN 1976, WHEN IT WAS FELT THAT SEVERAL OTHER AGENCIES HAD GROWN STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CIC

THE RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD IS NATIONALLY KNOWN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE CAUSES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

HE WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST IN 1956 FOR THE DETROIT DIOCESE.

HE WAS NAMED BISHOP IN 1968.

HE HOLDS A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN CHURCH LAW.

HE SERVES AS AUXILIARY BISHOP AND VICAR GENERAL OF THE DETROIT DIOCESE.

IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES IN HIS OWN DIOCESE, BISHOP GUMBLETON CURRENTLY SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF BREAD FOR THE WORLD AND PAX CHRISTI, USA, AND IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED. IT IS THE LOCAL MEMBERS OF THESE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE JOINED IN THE QUAD-CITIES PEACE AND JUSTICE COALITION WHO PRESENT THE PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD TO BISHOP GUMBLETON THIS EVENING.

AS PASTOR AND TEACHER IN THE FULLEST SENSE OF THOSE WORDS, BISHOP GUMBLETON SHOWS US BY HIS OWN EXAMPLE WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN OUR COMPLEX WORLD.

IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL IT IS WRITTEN:

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD,
I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK,
I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME,
NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME,
I WAS ILL AND YOU COMFORTED ME, IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME...
I ASSURE YOU, AS OFTEN AS YOU DID IT FOR ONE OF MY LEAST BROTHERS,
YOU DID IT FOR ME."

BISHOP GUMBLETON, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED EXAMPLE TO US LIVING OUT THESE WORDS.

AND WE ARE HONORED TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD FOR 1979.