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engl.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it

(Psalm 34:14)

go4peace!

„Freunde des Wortes“

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Dear friends of the word,

In his speech in Sarajevo in June 2015 Pope Francis encouraged us to become **'Craftsmen of peace'**. He invited us to actively pursue peace. He said: "Crafting peace is a *skilled work*: it requires passion, patience, experience and tenacity. Blessed are those who sow peace by their daily actions, their attitudes and acts of kindness, of fraternity, of dialogue, of mercy... These, indeed, "shall be called children of God", for God sows peace, always, everywhere; in the fullness of time, he sowed in the world his Son, that we might have peace! Peacemaking is a work to be carried forward each day, step by step, without ever growing tired." But what can we do in this pursuit for peace?

In the holy rule of St Benedict it says: "If thou wilt have true and everlasting life, keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile; turn away from evil and do good; seek after peace and pursue it!" **Turn from evil and do good; to turn away from self-interest and egoism, in order to find and do what builds peace** – in this very concrete way, St Benedict speaks to every monk and ultimately every person who is seeking peace.

I was travelling in a car with a group of teenagers. Two siblings had fallen out and kept insulting each other with harmful words. Another teenager acted very differently; he shared his sweets and crisps with everyone and showed funny pictures on his smartphone to the other members of the group. He even let the others play on his phone. When the quarrel between the two brothers threatened to escalate, he turned to them and – with a big smile on his face – said: "here, have one of those sweets and eat it, that should make you quiet." Everyone started laughing. Tension and anger evaporated. Peace was restored.

Dear friends of the word, **peacemakers are active!** We are invited to 'build' peace; with all our creativity and wittiness. Each and every day. **Go4peace!**

For the OnWordTeam Meinolf Wacker