

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Walking in Peace

BY JER

I rewrote this Chaplain's Corner four times. I could not get the message right or the theme seemed off. Then, I decided to get out of my head and to look into my heart and to speak as a spiritual leader influenced by Buddhism, instead of a trained creative writer. I've landed on the message of peace.

I am walking in peace. I'm working to maintain compassion for angry people showing their guns and their penchant for violence and division. I'm working hard to maintain compassion for those who decide not to wear a mask, thus endangering the wellness of others. And while some may believe that I am taking the easy way out, or that I am too passive, I would argue that I am diligently striving towards holding peaceful energy in a time full of chaos and separateness. It is what I have been called to do.

This is not a dharma talk on the illusion of separateness. I think if we all looked down deep, we would see what we intuitively know—there is no “us” versus “them.” You do not need me or anyone else to tell you that at our core, we are all part of one energy (whatever you'd like to call it). It is only through our forgetting (or failure to realize in the first place) our oneness that we cling to the illusion of separateness.

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The Enso symbol is a disciplined-creative practice of Japanese ink painting. It stands for absolute enlightenment, strength, elegance, the universe, and the void. It appears often in Zen Buddhism.

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Clothesline Project



Where: University of Lynchburg

When: October 9th 2020 (pickup t-shirt)

Time: 1:00-4:00 & 5:00-7:00

YWCA & The University of Lynchburg present the clothesline project. Are you a survivor and want to express your thoughts on a shirt?

Drop off your shirt in Schewel Lobby by 10.14.20

This project was supported by Grant No. 2018-WA-AX-0048 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sympathies, Concerns, and Congrats

Our sympathies go out to:

- **Shamyia Cambridge** (sophomore, Stafford, VA) on the death of her grandmother.
- **Willie Shoemaker** (Safety & Security) on the death of his sister, Sandra Robbins. Visitation is Oct. 8 from 6-8 p.m. The funeral will be held Oct. 9 at 11 a.m. Both are at Whitten Monelison Chapel. [Link](#) to obituary.



SPIRITUAL LIFE SERVICES

are live-streamed via our YouTube Channel

For a list of our regularly scheduled fellowship group meetings, go to the [Spiritual Life webpage](#) and click on "Spiritual Organizations on Campus."

Like us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/LynchburgSLC>

Helpful Links on LinkTree at - [SpiritualLifeCenter](#)

Dates to Remember

Roman Catholic Mass
Sundays, 4:30 p.m.

Vespers
Sundays, 9 p.m.

Thursday, October 15
5 p.m. - Interfaith Student

Panel Discussion:
"How Faith Informs
Activism"

Featuring the following
students:

Meg Pickett, Morganne
Talley, and Davion
Washington

Virtual event via SLC
YouTube Channel

The Gateway Program
Oct. 20- 5:45 p.m.

Join the Catholic Campus
Ministry to provide a meal
for homeless men.

Contact Kayla
serratore_KR@lynchburg.edu

Lavender Week

OCTOBER 19-25
CHECK BACK FOR
DETAILS

Walking in Peace (cont'd)

Like I said, this is not a dharma talk on that illusion; rather, my focus is on peace, peace within and peace without. We must, no matter the chaos or division, maintain our peace.

The Zen Master and Buddhist leader Thich Nhat Hanh is one of my greatest teachers. I found his words at a time of serious illness, a time when I was suffering both physically and spiritually. As he nears the end of this incarnation, I wish that I had written to him years ago to express my gratitude. The only way I can do so now is to walk in peace. Thich Nhat Hanh says, "We have to walk in a way that we only print peace and serenity on the Earth. Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your own feet." So, I try peacemaking as a way to honor a man who has touched my life without even knowing me.

My walk in peace is imperfect. I still get frustrated with those who claim COVID-19 is not real. (As a chaplain I know its terrible effects on both those who suffer from it and their loved ones.) I still get frustrated with those who belittle female politicians simply because they are females. I still get frustrated. But, I am choosing to respond in peace by wishing the ill-tempered a path to enlightenment. May they realize the true nature of all beings. May they open both their hearts and minds to unconditional love.

May I too fully awaken to the beauty of unconditional love for all beings (even those who disoblige me).

We are all works in progress (if we remember to progress!)

May you, dear reader, decide to walk in peace. May all who witness your walk be inspired to join the peacemakers.

The Chaplain's Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey.

If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share, reply to this message, email the SLC office - spirituallife@lynchburg.edu, or call 434.544.8348. We only share with your permission. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life.