



STUDY & PARTICIPATION GUIDE

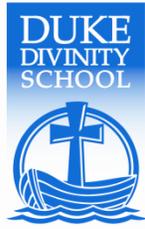
**The 6th Annual Christian Forum
for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia
May 27-June 1, 2019
Jeju, South Korea**

*The Forum is a joint initiative of
Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation
Mennonite Central Committee
and colleagues and institutions in Northeast Asia*

neareconciliation.com

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CENTER
FOR
RECONCILIATION



**Menonite
Central
Committee**

Greetings Forum Participants!

Nearly 100 of us have gathered from China mainland, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and North America. We welcome you to Jeju Island in the name of Jesus Christ, to the sixth annual Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia.

Receive the good news: *“in Christ, the new creation has come ... God was reconciling the world to himself ... and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us”* (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). To be faithful to this calling at a time of great tensions in Northeast Asia and our own contexts is not easy. Yet in God’s time of resurrection, we gather believing that the new creation in Christ has interrupted the brokenness. The way things are is not the way things have to be.

We come to Jeju from different journeys, contexts, and traditions. At the same time we share three “We’s.” First, we share a Christian “we” in the search for peace as God’s reconciling mission. Second, we share a passion to serve the context of Northeast Asia. Third, we share a calling to strengthen Christian witness in the ministry of reconciliation and peace.

Over our days together, here is what we seek:

- We will engage a journey that is at once theological, contextual, practical, and relational—including worship, Scriptural reflection, engaging critical challenges, and a pilgrimage across Jeju Island.
- We will build community across our diversity, seeking companionship in a common mission.
- We will seek catalytic possibilities for fresh collaboration and more faithful action.
- Most of all, may we be nourished to pursue God’s ministry of reconciliation through a fresh space of learning and relationships across the gifts and divides of our region.

Jeju Island is one of Korea’s most beautiful places, known for its stunning volcanic rock, scenic coastlines, mandarin oranges, and Halla Mountain. Jeju also has a long history of pain and hope, and we will engage those stories as well. At this time of crisis and kairos, Jeju provides a powerful place to discern the signs of the times and to envision a new future.

We ask you to enter this time with a listening spirit – to God, to the context, and to one another. A warm welcome to you, with anticipation for the journey that lies before us.

From the Members of the Forum Collaboration Council

Hae Young Choi, Professor, Catholic University of Korea

Atsuyoshi Fujiwara, Professor of Theology, Aoyama Gakuin University

Yuko Fukushima, Professor and University Chaplain, Aoyama Gakuin University

Katsuki Hirano, Chair, School of Preachers, Japan

Jongho Kim, East Asia Regional Secretary, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES)

Xi Lian, Professor of World Christianity, Duke Divinity School

Lung-Kwong Lo, Director Emeritus, Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Hong Kong

Chris Rice, Forum Convener, Co-Representative, Menonite Central Committee Northeast Asia

Bernard Wong, Associate Dean and Assistant Professor in Theological Studies, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong

2019 FORUM PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Mon May 27 DAY 1	Participants arrive at venue before 5 pm <i>Isidore Retreat Center</i>	OPENING DINNER 6-7 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	7:30-9:00 pm OPENING PROGRAM <i>Isidore Plenary Room</i>							
	Breakfast	Morning worship	Morning common journey	Lunch	Afternoon break-out sessions		Evening worship	Dinner	Evening	
Tue May 28 DAY 2	7:30 – 8:15 am <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	8:30-9 am <i>St. Clare sanctuary</i>	9:30 am-12 pm Theme: NEW CREATION <i>Isidore Plenary Room</i> Plenary teacher: Edgardo Colon-Emeric	12:15-1:30 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i> Country Groups	1:45-3:15 pm Session 1 – see choices 3:15-3:45 pm break 3:45-5 pm Session 2 – see choices		5:15-5:45 pm <i>Isidore Retreat Center</i>	6-7 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	6:30-9 pm <i>Isidore Café open</i>	
Wed May 29 DAY 3	7:30 – 8:15 am <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	8:30-9:15 am <i>St. Clare sanctuary</i> Theme: LAMENT	JEJU PILGRIMAGE OF PAIN & HOPE 9:45 am – 7 pm <i>Lunch at 4.3 Peace Park</i> <i>Dinner at Jeju restaurant</i>							<i>no program</i>
Thu May 30 DAY 4	7:30–8:15 am <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	8:30-9 am <i>St. Clare sanctuary</i>	9:30 am-12 pm Theme: HOPE <i>Isidore Plenary Room</i> Plenary teachers: Jae Young Lee & Hiro Katano	12:15-1:30 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	1:45-3 pm Session 3 – choices 3-3:30 pm break 3:30-5 pm Country Groups		5:15-5:45 pm <i>Isidore Retreat Center</i>	6-7 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	6:30-9 pm <i>Isidore Café open</i>	
Fri May 31 DAY 5	7:30 – 8:15 am <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	8:30-9 am <i>St. Clare sanctuary</i>	9:30 am-12 pm Theme: CALL <i>Isidore Plenary Room</i> Plenary teachers: German Cheung, witnesses HaeYoung Choi & Jongho Kim, Katsuki Hirano & Chris Rice	12:15-1:30 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	1:45-3:15 pm Personal reflection time	3:30-5:30 pm Closing Plenary <i>Isidore Plenary Room</i>	5:45–6:45 pm Closing Worship	Celebration Dinner 7 – 8:30 pm <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i> 8-10 pm <i>Isidore Café open</i>		
Sat June 1 DAY 6	7:30-8:15 am <i>Isidore Cafeteria</i>	Departures – all day								

MISSION, VISION & GOALS – The Northeast Asia Reconciliation Initiative

The annual Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia is the core program of the Northeast Asia Reconciliation Initiative (NARI), whose mission is:

To forward the ministry of reconciliation in Northeast Asia by inspiring and educating Christian leadership, fostering community and healing across divides, bearing prophetic witness, and being a catalyst for collaboration and new initiatives.

The following six elements have been critical to NARI's mission, identity, and impact:

- Audience: *Diverse Christian leaders from key institutions across Northeast Asia (and U.S.)*
- Content: *“Word made flesh” education in reconciliation (theological, contextual, practical)*
- Community: *Encounters across divides seeking to form a “new we”*
- Context: *Engaging transformative stories and places in Northeast Asia*
- Catalyst: *Sparking new connections and initiatives which forward peace and reconciliation*
- Long-term vision: *Going far and deep by walking together over many years*

Founded in 2012, NARI is grounded in mutually transformative relationships between partner institutions including the Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation, the Mennonite Central Committee, and leaders from key institutions in Northeast Asia. After an initial visioning gathering of leaders from Northeast Asia at Duke University in 2012, Forums were organized in Gapyeong, South Korea in 2014; Nagasaki, Japan in 2015; Hong Kong in 2016; Jeju, South Korea in 2017; and Kyoto, Japan in 2018. The past six years have been a dangerous time of rising hostilities in the region. The Forum has become a catalyst for inspiring fresh biblical thinking, new relationships, and catalytic collaboration in pursuing the ministry of reconciliation in Northeast Asia.

PARTICIPANTS

The Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia is designed to have a catalytic impact on people, institutions, and communities in the region, resulting in new and renewed ministries of reconciliation, justice and peacemaking in a wide variety of contexts. To that end, we intentionally recruit and invite participants of Christian faith who are in positions to influence or effect change in their context. We also prioritize younger leaders as well as groups of leaders from the same organization, church, or community who plan to attend the Forum together in order to have a greater impact on their context.

The 2019 Forum will involve more than 90 participants. You come from across Northeast Asia as well as from North America. You are university and seminary faculty and administrators; staff and leaders of parachurch ministries, NGOs, and civil society agencies; pastors and denominational leaders and lay people; men and women from different generations—yet all people of Christian faith, all on the journey seeking peace, justice and reconciliation. The Forum is designed to be highly interactive, and we invite you to bring your story and wisdom and questions into this space of learning and collaboration.

“WORD MADE FLESH” METHODOLOGY

The Forum’s methodology is undergirded by content and design centered in God’s gift of new creation in the reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:13-6:2) which embraces “all things...through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16-20). We refer to this methodology as “Word Made Flesh” (John 1:14).

The journey of reconciliation from Genesis to Revelation reaches toward the hope of God’s reconciliation of all things. The methodology of the Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia is designed to explore the heart of what the ministry and movement of Christian hope looks like in three critical dimensions: *theological* (“the Word”), *contextual* (“became flesh”), and *practical* (“and dwelt among us”).

- Theological – The methodology of the Forum is rooted in a deep and vibrant engagement with the Christian story and biblical texts as a way of igniting our collective scriptural imagination.
- Contextual - We believe that wisdom for ministry is rooted in the stories of people who have sought to be faithful to God’s calling in particular locations and communities. Our methodology brings stories and ministry practitioners from particular contexts and lives into conversation with theologians and other Christian scholars.
- Practical – The Forum intentionally bridges the historic divide between the study of theology and the practice of ministry. Teaching includes wisdom drawn from hopeful lives, models of vibrant ministry, and life-giving stories that help shape and sustain communities of God’s resurrection.

THEOLOGICAL JOURNEY OF THE FORUM

Our focus on reconciliation is grounded in a distinctively Christian vision and a framework that is richly theological, practical, and contextual. We understand the ministry of reconciliation to be rooted in God’s reconciling work in Christ and to encompass the redemption and restoration of all of creation. Reconciliation is at the heart of God’s mission in our world and is a gift God has given to the church. We believe that the church is invited to join in this mission and, in doing so, to be transformed by and give witness to God’s redemption and new creation.

The Forum is designed as a space for participants to engage the theology and practice of reconciliation in ways which deeply engage the challenges in the Northeast Asia context. Over the course of our days together, we pray for significant breakthroughs to occur in the minds and hearts of participants, for deep and difficult conversations to take place, and for God to touch people in transformative ways.

To that end, the Forum is designed as a five-day journey through distinct theological and spiritual themes. Five themes form the theological journey and framework of the Forum.

- **Tuesday: New Creation**
“*Reconciliation toward what end?*”: This is a question relating to the goal, the end toward which reconciliation leads. If we think about reconciliation as a journey, this first day anchors us in our destination. Where does this journey end? This question invites the participant to form a scriptural imagination of the gift of *new creation*.
- **Wednesday, part I: Lament**
“*Where are we and how did we get here?*”: This is a question of context, which seeks to get to a clearer and deeper understanding of the specific challenges through seeing, naming, and standing in the brokenness.

What are the historic markers that lead us to our current context? How has the past shaped the present? This question invites the participant to develop the gift and discipline of *lament*.

- **Wednesday, part II: Pilgrimage**

In the biblical story, we see the importance of place and location. Authentic reconciliation and peace require listening to the story and history of where we are, seeking to see with God's eyes. Each year participants journey together into the local context to reflect on stories of pain and hope.

- **Thursday: Hope**

"*What does hope look like?*": This is a question of process, which highlights models, stories, and experiments that shape and sustain a new future in our context. Where can we see signs pointing toward liberation, reconciliation, and peace? The question invites the participant into the gift and discipline of vision, imagination, and capacity for *hope* leading toward authentic reconciliation and peace.

- **Friday: Call**

"*Why me, and why bother?*": This is a question of purpose, which explores issues of personal and communal formation, vocation, and mission. We understand that *all* Christians have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation, although specific responses to this call may be varied. How have individuals and communities faithfully responded to this call? What practices, rhythms, and life-styles sustain people and communities, even in the face of challenges and obstacles, so they might continue working to achieve this goal? This question invites the participant to reflect on the gift and discipline of a spirituality for the long haul which enables us to live as cruciform reconcilers.

DAILY DESIGN

- Worship: We begin and end each day with vibrant Christian worship – morning worship in the chapel at St. Clare Convent, and evening worship at Isidore Retreat Center. Worship is an essential part of the Forum and a crucial space for embodying our calling to reconciliation. Worship is designed to reflect the gifts of different Christian traditions and different countries, and to amplify the theological themes of each day of the Forum.
- Common Journey (Plenary): All participants gather each morning to learn from and dialogue with plenary speakers about a Scriptural vision and practice of reconciliation. Each session includes a scholar or practitioner teaching on that day's theological theme. This is followed by panel discussion to wrestle more deeply and contextually with the theme, or by a "witness" sharing stories and practical wisdom which amplifies the day's theme. Members of the Forum Collaboration Council facilitate plenary sessions, providing theological framing for each day's theme and facilitating participant interaction in the plenary context.
- Pilgrimage of pain and hope: Each year the Forum journeys on pilgrimage into the local context — in 2014 to the DMZ dividing North and South Korea, in 2015 to Nagasaki sites of Christian martyrdom and where the U.S. atomic bomb was dropped, in 2016 to Macau (a place of significance for Christianity in all of Northeast Asia), in 2017 to the "April 3" Peace Park in Jeju, and in 2018 to sites of power and pain in Kyoto. Most of Wednesday we will journey throughout Jeju for a special time of learning and story-telling, seeking to draw lessons for the call to reconciliation in our time.
- Tuesday and Thursday Afternoon Break-Out Sessions: Participants will choose sessions from several options each afternoon (see pages 7-8). These sessions provide a space for more in-depth engagement of a particular challenge or theme, and an opportunity for participants to learn and share together.

- **Country groups:** Two sessions are organized to meet others from your context, to talk in your native language, to discuss signs of crisis and kairos you see, to build relationship, and to discuss how you might work together after the Forum to be faithful ambassadors of reconciliation.
- **Rest, reflection, play:** Given the challenges in Northeast Asia, the Forum can be intense. We encourage you to take advantage of early morning, lunch hour, and evenings to enjoy the beautiful outdoor surroundings of Isidore and reflect on what you are learning and experiencing. Café spaces will be open some evenings to enjoy tea, coffee, and ice cream together.
- **Shared meals:** Participants share meals together throughout the week. A Rwandan proverb says, “If we cannot hear the mouth eating, we cannot hear the mouth crying.” Eating together is crucial to the Forum, allowing for one-on-one or small group conversations, new friendships that will help nurture participants in their ministry, and the practice of shared table fellowship among a diverse group of believers. Participants are encouraged to suggest informal meal-time gatherings for people interested in a particular topic or ministry context.

2019 FORUM BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

In each of the three different sessions, participants choose one break-out group only. Break-out sessions provide in-depth engagement of a critical challenge or theme and an opportunity for participants to learn together in smaller groups.

Tuesday Session 1 Options: 1:45-3:15 pm

Korea cohort session 1 - facilitated by SeongHan Kim, Hae Young Choi, Jongho Kim.
Theology of Reconciliation – Edgardo Colon-Emeric (Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation). Reflecting on God’s ministry of reconciliation as revealed in Scripture, interpreted in Christian tradition, and lived in community, with discussion of application within NE Asia.
Critical 20th Century Historical Understandings for the Church to Pursue Authentic Peace in NE Asia - Xi Lian (Duke Divinity School) and Atsuyoshi Fujiwara (Aoyama Gakuin University).
Women, Scripture, and the Ministry of Reconciliation – Yuko Fukushima (Aoyama Gakuin University).
Impossible People, Difficult Dialogue: A Cultural Reading of Matthew 18 - Bernard Wong (China Graduate School of Theology). We will read Jesus’ teaching on how to deal with “a brother or sister who sins against you” (Matt 18:15-17) in the Asian cultural context for inspiration on conversing with those we find impossible to dialogue with.
The North/South Korea/U.S. Divide and a New Future: Obstacles & Opportunities – Panel discussion with Chris Rice (moderator), Bishop Peter Kang (Catholic Diocese of Jeju), Seon Wook Kim (Soongsil University), Choon Lim (Presbyterian Church USA), Jennifer Deibert (MCC North Korea Program Coordinator), HyungWook Kim (Chungeoram). Current critical challenges facing the church, signs of hope and effective approaches, problems and Scriptural understandings needing greater attention.

Tuesday Session 2 Options: 3:45-5:00 pm

<p>Korea cohort session 2 - facilitated by SeongHan Kim, Hae Young Choi, Jongho Kim.</p>
<p>The Academy and Peace & Reconciliation Teaching & Curriculum – Panel discussion with Bernard Wong (moderator, China Graduate School of Theology), Atsuyoshi Fujiwara (Aoyama Gakuin University), Sujin Pak (Duke Divinity School). Contextual challenges, effective approaches, Scriptural understandings and problems needing greater attention.</p>
<p>Pastors & the Ministry of Reconciliation –Panel discussion with Katsuki Hirano (moderator, Japan School of Preachers), German Cheung (Hong Kong pastor), and other pastors. Contextual challenges, effective approaches, Scriptural understandings and problems needing greater attention.</p>
<p>Theologians and the Ministry of Reconciliation – Panel discussion with Yuko Fukushima (moderator, Aoyama Gakuin University), Kazuhiko Yamazaki-Ransom. (Covenant Seminary, Japan), Ming-Wei Tsai (Tainan Theological Seminary, Taiwan), Haruko Umetsu Cho (Harvard University), Lung-Kwong Lo (Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Hong Kong), Sangduk Kim (Christian Institute for Justice & Development, Korea). Contextual challenges, Scriptural understandings and problems needing greater attention, best theological resources relevant to NE Asia.</p>
<p>Land, Food, and Life: Reconciliation and Creation Care– Tomoko Arakawa (Director, Asian Rural institute, Japan).</p>
<p>Mennonite/Anabaptist Traditions of Peacemaking: Scripture & Practice – Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a core partner in the NE Asia Forum. Who are Mennonites and what unique gifts and practices do they bring to peacemaking? Panel discussion with MCC leaders Sri Mayasandra (moderator), Rebecca Burkholder, and Blaine Derstine (U.S.), Hiro Katano (Mennonite Peace Missions Center, Japan), Jeanette Hanson (Mennonite Partners in China).</p>

Thursday Session 3 Options: 1:45-3:00 pm

<p>Korea cohort session 2 - facilitated by SeongHan Kim, Hae Young Choi, Jongho Kim.</p>
<p>Theology of Reconciliation – Edgardo Colon-Emeric (Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation). Reflecting on God’s ministry of reconciliation as revealed in Scripture, interpreted in Christian tradition, and lived in community, with discussion of application in NE Asia.</p>
<p>Applying Restorative Justice to Critical Challenges - Hiro Kitano (Mennonite Peace Missions Center, Japan). Following morning plenary on the theme, applying biblically-shaped restorative justice to concrete situations context of NE Asia.</p>
<p>Reconciliation & the Next Generation – Panel discussion with Solga Kim (moderator, Mennonite Central Committee NE Asia), Kazusa Okaya (KGK university ministry in Japan), Grace and Jongdae Kim (Re’Generation Movement). Contextual challenges, effective approaches, Scriptural understandings and problems needing greater attention.</p>
<p>Key Challenges Today Facing Christians on China Mainland in Peace & Reconciliation - Xi Lian (Duke Divinity School) and Jeanette Hanson (Mennonite Partners in China) moderate a discussion with panelists from China mainland.</p>
<p>Minority People at the Margins: Problems & Solutions – Panel discussion with Sujin Pak (moderator, Duke Divinity School), Shinya Kim (Minority Center, Japan), Hikofumi Tomari (Okinawa pastor), Chen Wen-Shen (work with aboriginal people and anti-death penalty movement in Taiwan), Pak-kin Leung (Breakthrough, Hong Kong).</p>

FORUM PARTNERSHIPS

The Northeast Asia Reconciliation Initiative is grounded in mutually transformative relationships between partner organizations and leaders who provide diverse gifts and resources to support the initiative. Current partners include Duke Divinity School, Mennonite Central Committee, and representatives of institutions in Northeast Asia who serve on the Forum Collaboration Council.

Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation Mission and Vision

Rooted in a Christian vision of God's hope for all of creation, the Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation inspires, forms, and supports leaders, communities, and congregations to live as ambassadors of reconciliation. Over the past 14 years, the Center has become known as a significant presence in cultivating seeds of reconciliation both in the U.S. and globally. The Center focuses its efforts around three primary activities: connecting existing practitioners through collaborative partnerships, cultivating new leaders in work of reconciliation, and communicating wisdom and hope.

The Center for Reconciliation forms and nourishes faithful Christian leadership for reconciliation by providing opportunities and resources that unite theology, context, and practice in response to the social, economic, and political realities communities face. The Center's core programs (which include the Summer Institute for Reconciliation, the African Great Lakes Initiative, and the Northeast Asia Reconciliation Initiative) create theologically-formed spaces which gather Christians across different traditions. These spaces aid leaders in learning from the gifts of diversity while providing momentum towards unity across the borders of division into a shared common identity centered on a Christian vision of reconciliation.

Mennonite Central Committee Mission and Vision

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

Founded in 1920, MCC serves in over 50 countries across the world, including in Northeast Asia. Seeking to answer God's call, MCC focuses on five strategic areas of service:

- Caring for the lives and futures of uprooted and other vulnerable people.
- Providing water, food and shelter first in times of hunger, disaster and conflict, then education and ways to earn income.
- Working with churches and communities to prevent violence and promote peace and justice.
- Investing in opportunities for young people to serve in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.
- Serving with humility and in partnership to meet local needs with local solutions.

MEMBERS OF THE FORUM COLLABORATION COUNCIL



Hae Young Choi
Professor, Catholic University of Korea



Atsuyoshi Fujiwara
Professor of Theology, Aoyama Gakuin University



Yuko Fukushima
Professor and University Chaplain
Aoyama Gakuin University



Katsuki Hirano
Chair, School of Preachers Japan
Pastor, United Church of Japan



Jongho Kim
East Asia Regional Secretary, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES)



Xi Lian
Professor of World Christianity, Duke Divinity School



Lung-Kwong Lo
Director Emeritus, Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Chris Rice, Forum Convener
Senior Fellow for Northeast Asia, Duke Divinity School
Northeast Asia Co-Representative, Mennonite Central Committee
Cofounding Director, Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation (2005-2014)



Bernard Wong
Associate Dean and Assistant Professor in Theological Studies
China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong

우리는 주님의 백성, 함께 보냄 받았네

主をたたえる我ら、主の民として

We, your people, sing your praises as together we are sent

555

F C F Dm B \flat F C F

우 리 는 주 님 의 백 - 성 합 - 께 보 - 념 받 - 았 네 탄 식
主 を た た え る 我 ら 主 の 民 と し て 新
We, your peo - ple, sing your prais - es as to - geth - er we are sent to re -

5

C F Dm B \flat F C F

가 운 데 드 러 - 난 새 창 조 노 래 하 네 여 행
ら し い 創 - 造 嘆 息 の 陰 に 見 い
veal your new cre - a - tion in the shad - ows of la - ment Give us

9

B \flat F C

위 한 용 기 주 소 서 목 자 되 신 예 수 님 모 든
だ す 旅 の た め 勇 気 を く だ さ い 和 解
cour - age for the jour - ney, shep - herd Je - sus be our guide; help us

13

B \flat C F Dm C B \flat F C F

것 화 해 할 때 까 지 소 망 열 정 주 소 서
를 望 할 때 까 지 主 と 歩 行 주 소 서
lead with hope and pas - sion till all things are re - con - ciled.

A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

A prayer inspired by the witness of Bishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador (murdered, 24 March 1980)

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

MAP OF ISIDORE RETREAT CENTER AND FARM



- 1: Welcome Center for Isidore Farm (Isidore Café)
 - 2, 3, 4: Park, walking paths, and Stations of the Cross
 - 5: Lake
 - 6: Outdoor worship/prayer area
 - 7: Isidore Retreat Center (lodging, meals, and plenary sessions)
 - 8: Ice Cream Café
 - 9: St. Clare convent (morning worship)
- Geumak Education Building is across the street from St. Clare Convent