



**Being Disciples of Jesus  
in Charity, Justice, and Prophecy  
Why Simply Being Good-hearted is not Enough**

**Oblate School of Theology  
National Retreat  
February 6-9, 2023**

**Ron Rolheiser OMI**



## Sessions ...

1. **Monday AM** - What is Social Justice and its distinctiveness from Charity
2. **Monday Afternoon** – The Place of Social Justice with Christian Spirituality as a whole
3. **Monday Evening** – Some Principles from Scripture and Church Teachings

1. **Tuesday AM** – Justice and the Ecological Crisis
2. **Tuesday Evening** – One major social justice issue – *The Inequality of Women*

1. **Wednesday AM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and End of Life Issues*  
(Monsignor Jerry McCarthy)
2. **Wednesday PM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and Abortion*

1. **Thursday AM** – Ten Principles for Christian Prophecy
2. **Thursday PM** – Quiet Prophecy



Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Another Kind of Protest for Justice The notion

- An image from Raymond E. Brown – What comes after we park our placards?
- What makes for a “prophetic action”?
- How the “private” changes the “social”





Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

### 1. A Time to “turn the other cheek”

○ *“If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn the other cheek as well.”  
(Matthew 5,38-39)*

- Unwrapping the text – from its social context
- How this action is “prophetic” and powerfully transformative?
- Posing a question: Which is more transformative long-range “pressure from power” or “peace activism”?



Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

### 2. A time for “Washing each other’s feet” – To make “Eucharist” outside of church

○ *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet. (John 13, 3-5)*

- Background to Jesus washing his disciples’ feet
- The lesson
- The invitation – To scandalously reach across cultural and religious lines



Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

### 3. A time to “Ponder” – To Carry the tension inside a community

- *Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2,9)*
- Pondering in the Hebrew rather than Greek sense
- An image – Mary under the cross – holding and transforming tension rather than giving it back in kind
- “Amazement” as the biblical opposite of pondering
- Two images
  - Amazement – an electrical cord
  - Pondering – a water purifier
- The invitation – To carry and transform tension rather than to give it back in kind.



Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

### 4. A time to “Weep over Jerusalem” – To move to a deeper maturity and model that maturity

○ *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. (Luke 19, 41-42)*

- The image

- Jesus’ reaction to rejection
- The spontaneous human reaction to rejection and its consequences
- The invitation to us – to move to a deeper level of maturity



Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

### 5. A time to “Give God’s smile to the world” – To be a divine grandparent

○ *“The gift of a loving gaze nourishes us and expands our hearts. Blessing dwells in the gaze.” Lynn Elisabeth Meadows*



- Love, such as grand-parenting, as the purest love on earth
- It’s function – to bestow blessing
- It’s special function – to bestow God’s smile on the world
  - To help take the constricting after birth off the young – by, in purity, blessing youth’s energies
  - To help the young to see God’s smile and blessing
- The invitation – to bless





Thursday PM -

## Quiet Prophecy – Five Characteristics of Quiet Prophecy

An Example – Therese of Lisieux – A great paradox

