



“People always say you can change the world. Peacebuilders made me believe I can.”

– Katie, Peacebuilders Participant



“You are a part of the church here and now, and you have a contribution to make.”

– Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, 1982-1996



Combining the vast theological resources of Catholic Theological Union with the Bernardin Center’s mission to foster peacemaking and reconciliation, Peacebuilders Initiative offers a transformative encounter to a generation hungry to become leaders in the Church and in their communities.

About the Bernardin Center

The Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry was established in 1997 at Catholic Theological Union with the blessing of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin to foster understanding in areas such as reconciliation, peacemaking, leadership development, interreligious dialogue, the consistent ethic of life, and Catholic Common Ground. The Bernardin Center advances these “Signature Issues” through its Bernardin Scholarships and its many programs – Catholics on Call, Peacebuilders Initiative, Catholic-Jewish Program, Catholic-Muslim Program, and Catholic Common Ground Initiative. The Center sponsors theological research and a number of public events including lectures, conferences, and seminars.

About Catholic Theological Union

Catholic Theological Union, the largest Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry in the United States, prepares women and men, lay and ordained, to serve the Church and the world. CTU is a community of inquiry where faculty and students engage in the pursuit of academic excellence, inspired ministerial/pastoral leadership, and a spirit of devoted service. CTU graduates serve throughout the globe in a wide range of settings – parishes, homeless shelters, youth ministry programs, hospitals, correctional institutions, colleges and universities, hospices, and social service agencies.

To learn more about The Bernardin Center and Catholic Theological Union, visit: www.ctu.edu



DO YOU

have what it takes



to be a **PEACEBUILDER?**



Peacebuilders Initiative is an integrated program of study, ministry, prayer, and reflection for high school juniors and seniors, sponsored by the Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union. Since 2003, hundreds of students from our partnering parishes and high schools have participated in the Peacebuilders Initiative. This innovative yearlong program integrates the theology of peacebuilding with hands-on ministry and dynamic liturgical experiences, through participation in a weeklong summer conference, two retreats, and the development of a peace project.

- Summer Program – Participants learn the theology of peacebuilding from world-class experts, experience hands-on ministry dedicated to peace and reconciliation, pray together, have fun, and build community with high school students from all over Chicago.
- Fall and Spring Retreats – Summer participants reconnect, revitalize, and rediscover what it means to be a Peacebuilder.
- Peace Project – They design a project that expresses their vision of peace and reconciliation, and they put it into practice in their school, parish, or community.

Peacebuilders Initiative Impacts:

Participants

Participants come from both the city and the suburbs and represent a diverse population where all differences are respected and celebrated. Between fifty and sixty high school juniors and seniors are selected to participate in the year-long program each year. For more information about becoming a Peacebuilder, visit our website.

Mentors

A crucial piece of this community is the team of mentors. Mentors are ministers, teachers, and other adults selected by Peacebuilders Initiative who are passionate about supporting the gifts of young people. They work with participants during the retreat programs and throughout the year to offer guidance as the participants create peace projects.

Partnering Schools and Parishes

Peacebuilders Initiative has partnered with more than fifty Catholic parishes and high schools. It is from these partners that the students are recruited and selected to take part in the program. In turn, these institutions are transformed by the presence of the Peacebuilders and through the development of their peace projects.



Peacebuilders Needs YOU!

Our high school Peacebuilders have the energy, commitment, faith, and skill to make a difference in the Church, in the world, and in their communities. But they need dedicated, committed adults to support them and to offer additional resources.

At every level of our program, Peacebuilders Initiative offers adults opportunities to support and be inspired by the young leaders in the Church. We need you! Please consider supporting Peacebuilders by:

- Applying to be a mentor
- Becoming a partnering high school or parish
- Making a donation
- Attending our annual fundraising event, Peace Groove
- Volunteering your time and talents to assist us in an administrative or fundraising capacity.

**Peacebuilders Initiative empowers participants
“to be engaged in their Church, to be engaged in
their world, and to be engaged in their communities
in a real, active, and meaningful way.”**

- Tara, Peacebuilders Partner and Mentor

**“It’s holistic,
it’s comprehensive,
and that’s what
makes it so
transformative.”**

- Mike, Mentor

Peacebuilders Initiative relies on the generous support of a community who believe in the gifts of our young Church. Please consider supporting us today.

Contact Information

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