

1968

Pacem In Terris

Peace and Freedom Award



Davenport Catholic Interracial Council

April 23, 1968



FATHER JAMES E. GROPPi

Recipient of the 1968 Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award



THE 1968 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

With courage and remarkable humanity, Father James E. Groppi of the pastoral team of St. Boniface Catholic Church, has demonstrated in his Milwaukee civil rights activities the kind of leadership a Christian can provide in dramatizing glaring social injustices in American life. The well organized, sustained non-violent demonstrations for fair housing in the Wisconsin city carried on by the Commandos under Father Groppi's guidance have focused national attention on the major cause of racial tension today. More than that, the very creation of the Commandos as a disciplined group of Negro and other youth trained to direct and protect such demonstrations, has given meaning and purpose to the lives of hundreds of young people. And all of this at a time when Black Power violence seemed to be taking over the civil rights movement.

Father Groppi has preached justice and love of the Gospel by his actions as well as by his words. His has been a full Christian vocation. In a fearless fashion, against considerable odds, he has exemplified in his ministry the convictions of the late, beloved Pope John who insists in his encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris*, that "he who possesses certain rights has likewise the duty to claim those rights as marks of his dignity," and that "the dignity of the human person involves the right to take an active part in public affairs and to contribute one's part to the common good of the citizens."

By conferring upon his this *Pacem in Terris* Peace and Freedom Award the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council honors the courage, humanity and Christianity of Father Groppi. It is CIC's hope that others will follow his example.



Pope John XXIII

"Racial discrimination can in no way be justified . . . Thus, he who possesses certain rights has likewise the duty to claim those rights as marks of his dignity, while all others have the obligation to acknowledge those rights and respect them." Pope John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris*.

The Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award

By establishing the *Pacem in Terris* Peace and Freedom Award, the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council intends to commemorate one of the most notable events in the modern history of Christianity — the publication of the encyclical *PACEM IN TERRIS*. Further, we intend to honor the person of Pope John XXIII, a man who for a brief time was truly the leader of all men of good will, Protestant, Catholic, Jew, and non-believer. Finally, we intend that this award proclaim the inseparable connection between freedom, equality, and peace in the lives of all people.

Since the creation of the award in 1964, on the first anniversary of publication of *Pacem in Terris*, both Pope John and his encyclical letter have grown in stature and meaning. The name of the good Pope has become a household word for all men, believers and non-believers alike. The germinal concepts of the historic encyclical—the dignity of the human person, liberty of conscience, the progressive evolution of political doctrines, the realization of human society in freedom, cessation of the arms race, world government—are ever more widely appreciated throughout the world.

More specifically, for Catholics the world over, Pope John and his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* combine with the Second Vatican Council to provide the foundation of the present, on-going renewal of Christian life and practice. Christians will again be prophetic.

It only remains for us now to cease the opportunity. The dynamic human force liberated by Pope John and these events can and hopefully will change the world as each individual fearlessly and with a new confidence assumes, under God, the mastery of his/her own life. We shall overcome, and we shall be free.



THE MOST REV. GERALD O'KEEFE
Bishop of Davenport

"We urge Catholics to become more active in efforts to rid our diocese of racism and poverty. Catholics are encouraged to work for local Fair Housing laws, to seek the legislation and policies necessary to end the poverty of the dispossessed and alienated hard-core poor in our diocese and state. . . . Many people are filled with fear by the magnitude of the problems of race and poverty, but St. John tells us, 'In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love. . . and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.' (1 John 4:18)

From Bishop O'Keefe's letter to the Diocese of Davenport, February 12, 1968.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD, 1965
1929 - 1968

THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

If there is a note of sadness about the conferring of the *Pacem in Terris* Award this year it is because the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council—with millions of Americans—has lost a good and dear friend.

On Thursday, April 4, in Memphis, Tennessee, an assassin's bullet brought a violent end to the life of Martin Luther King, jr, the American apostle of non-violence in action for civil rights and peace.

We are empty. We are sad and bitter.

In 1965, when Dr. King came to Davenport to receive the annual CIC *Pacem in Terris* Award, he honored us far more than we could ever have honored him. Quietly he walked among us, he talked, he listened. He had just come from Los Angeles where he had attempted to prevent what became Watts, and he would shortly leave to return to Selma, Alabama. Even then, three years ago, we sensed his dignity, his deep faith in God, and his remarkable faith in man. Even then we sensed the largeness of his life which knew no fear of death.

As we gather, again, to continue the work Dr. King helped us begin, let us listen once more to the words he addressed to us that evening in April, 1965:

"May I say to you that as I prepare to go back to the Deep South, to the dark and desolate moments of Alabama with all of its difficulties still ahead, I have faith in the future and I have faith in America. And I believe we're going to solve this problem. I believe that we are developing a coalition of conscience that will mobilize itself on a continuing basis to the point of bringing about a solution. I believe that somehow and in some way we shall overcome. Before the victory is won some of us will get scarred up a little; before the victory is won some more will be thrown into jail; before the victory is won some will be called bad names, misunderstood; some will be called Reds and Communists simply because they believe in the brotherhood of man.

"Before the victory is won somebody else may have to face physical death. If physical death is the price some must pay to free their children from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive.

"Yes, we shall overcome; we are not afraid; the Lord will see us through."

Prior Awards

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.



1964

The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated. If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot eat in a restaurant open to the public, if he cannot send his children to the best public schools available, if he cannot vote for the public officials who represent him, if, in short, he cannot enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand in his place? Who among us would then be content with the counsels of patience and delay?

—John F. Kennedy



1964

"Racism — discrimination based on skin color — has grown strong, hard, and bitter throughout the length and breadth of America. Racists who claim to be anti-Communists are doing the Communists' work magnificently well by showing the world our racist abuses and thereby turning the world from us in disgust."

—John Howard Griffin



1966

It is because of men and women like you, the Catholic Interracial Council, that we are going to win the War on Poverty.

The Church, all the churches collectively, and individually, are dropping what some have jokingly called its "edifice complex" and have set about to "walk with the poor."

We're working for something else too. We're working for a sense of community that brings all Americans of all races and creeds together in a common cause, the cause of humanity, the cause of the poor and the underprivileged.

—Sargent Shriver



1967

"What we need is a Freedom Budget for All Americans, a practical, step-by-step plan for wiping out poverty in America during the next ten years."

A. Philip Randolph

MERIT AWARDS



A native of Rock Island, Chester Hale received his education in Muscatine, attending that city's high school and junior college. He is a member of the Rock Island Fair Housing Board and has been active in the Rock Island County Interracial Council. His citation by CIC notes especially the valuable leadership he provided in the action which culminated in the enactment of a fair housing ordinance for Rock Island.

A life-long resident of Moline, Neal S. Smith, is training director of the East Moline Works of International Harvester Company. By selecting him for a Merit Award CIC honors particularly the exceptional work he has done to establish and make successful the Quad-City Merit Employment Council. He is a graduate of Augustana College, and a member of the Quad-Cities Council on Human Rights, and the American Civil Liberties Union.



In conferring upon Radio Station KSTT an Award of Merit, CIC honors also its guiding genius, Frederick Epstein, president and owner. The citation for Mr. Epstein and KSTT emphasizes the continuous leadership both have provided in the often controversial areas of civil rights and peace. Special note is taken of "Conversation with Ruth and Fred," daily, dialogue program heard over KSTT. A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Epstein is a graduate of City College of New York and William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minn.



Program

Toastmaster.....Simon Roberts
 Instructor, Alleman High School, Rock Island
 Invocation..... Reverend Roy Cheers
 Assistant Pastor, Olivet Baptist Church, Rock Island

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

MERIT AWARDS

- to Chester O. Hale--presented by Father John Real
- to Neal S. Smith--presented by Austin Duke
- to KSTT (Frederick Epstein)--presented by Mrs. A. C. Tracy

PRESENTATION OF 1968

PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

- to Father James E. Groppi--presented by Charles W. Toney,
 President, Davenport Catholic Interracial Council

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

RESPONSE by Father Groppi

WE SHALL OVERCOME

BENEDICTION.....Reverend Harry Allen
 Associate Pastor, Asbury Methodist Church, Bettendorf



PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD PRESENTATION

GENERAL CHAIRMAN.....Charles W. Toney

COMMITTEES

TICKET COMMITTEE.....Dr. & Mrs. Erwin Keller,
Mrs. Cecile Cooper, Mrs. Charles Toney,
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rosenthal,
Miss Celia Cunningham.

AWARDS.....Dr. Erwin Keller, Father John S. Smith
Thomas Winkler.

PROGRAM..... Father John S. Smith.

CIC OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT.....Frederick Epstein
SECRETARY.....Miss Dorothy Rath
TREASURER.....Miss Anita Vaessen
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT..... Sister Germaine Dermody, CHM

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain.
America, America, God shed His grace on thee, and crowned thy good
with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim's feet, whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, across the wilderness.
America, America, God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in
self-control, thy liberty in law.

* * *

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored. He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.

REFRAIN:

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps. They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps. I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps. His day is marching on.

* * *

WE SHALL OVERCOME

We Shall Overcome, We
Shall Overcome
We Shall Overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do
believe
We Shall Overcome some day.



A. Philip Randolph Addressing the
1967 Pacem In Terris Award Ceremonies

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., receives the 1965 Pacem In Terris Peace and Freedom Award. Left to right are Charles Toney, Dr. King, and Msgr. Paul D. Moore.



1966 Banquet: Bishop Hayes and Charles Toney congratulate R. Sargent Shriver as he accepts the 1966 award.

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Charles Toney & Bishop Ralph L. Hayes congratulate John Howard Griffin on receiving 1964 Pacem In Terris Award.

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