

In order to grow and flourish, children need an environment of peace. They need an abundance of quiet, tranquility, & calm. Seeking and striving to love their child, parents do what they can to provide such an environment.

It is amazing to see how the presence of a CHILD can transform adults into being peaceful. Not to long from now we will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child..... sent to bring peace.....to restore peace to the nations. Christ.....the Prince of Peace.

St. John in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading proclaims how God loves us so much that we are called the CHILDREN OF GOD. And in the Gospel, Jesus teaches that PEACEMAKERS will be called CHILDREN OF GOD.

On this Feast of All Saints, call to mind people in our lives who are or were peacemakers. See if we can take into our lives their example. Identify what it will take for us to become peacemakers in our world and in our relationships. It might mean slowing down, listening, exercising patience. It might mean becoming understanding, being accepting, laughing more. Being a PEACEMAKER might involve remaining silent on occasion, withholding our opinion, being less judgmental.

There are as many ways to be PEACEMAKERS as there are people here present. Imagine what our families, neighborhoods and community will become when we daily take one small step as PEACEMAKERS. Everything around us will be different. We will be transformed. We will reflect the great dignity that is ours: We are loved by God and known as the CHILDREN OF GOD.....peacemakers of Bay City.

My sisters and brothers, let's take up the challenge.