

Chapter 1 : 58 Sizzling Photos of Pride in the Dominican Republic

Celebrating Diversity! July 4, Joan-admin Early in the new school year at the Solidarity Teacher Training College at Yambio, students and staff took time to bless and celebrate.

How would it be an orchestra if all were French horns? We inhabit a universe that is characterized by diversity. There is not just one planet or one star; there are galaxies of all different sorts, a plethora of animal species, different kinds of plants, and different races and ethnic groups. God shows us, even with a human body, that it is made up of different organs performing different functions and that it is precisely that diversity that makes it an organism. If it were only one organ, it would not be a human body. We are constantly being made aware of the glorious diversity that is written into the structure of the universe we inhabit, and we are helped to see that if it were otherwise, things would go awry. How could you have a soccer team if all were goalkeepers? For Christians, who believe they are created in the image of God, it is the Godhead, diversity in unity and the three-in-oneness of God, which we and all creation reflect. That worth is intrinsic to who we are, not dependent on anything external, extrinsic. Thus there can be no superior or inferior race. We are all of equal worth, born equal in dignity and born free, and for this reason deserving of respect whatever our external circumstances. We are created freely for freedom as those who are decision-making animals and so as of right entitled to respect, to be given personal space to be autonomous. We belong in a world whose very structure, whose essence, is diversity, almost bewildering in extent. We live in a universe marked by diversity as the law of its being and our being. We are made to exist in a life that should be marked by cooperation, interdependence, sharing, caring, compassion and complementarity. We should celebrate our diversity; we should exult in our differences as making not for separation and alienation and hostility but for their glorious opposites. Anything else, as we have experienced, is disaster. Racism, xenophobia and unfair discrimination have spawned slavery, when human beings have bought and sold and owned and branded fellow human beings as if they were so many beasts of burden. They have given birth to the Holocaust of Germany and the other holocausts of Armenians and in Rwanda; the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and the awfulness of apartheid; and what we have seen in Sri Lanka, in Northern Ireland, in the Middle East, in the Sudan, where there has been a spiral of reprisals leading to counter-reprisals, and these in turn to other reprisals. Martin Luther King Jr. Religion has fueled alienation and conflict and has exacerbated intolerance and injustice and oppression. Some of the ghastliest atrocities have happened and are happening in the name of religion. It need not be so if we can learn the obvious: Our survival as a species will depend not on unbridled power lacking moral direction, or on eliminating those who are different and seeking only those who think and speak and behave and look like ourselves. That way is stagnation and ultimately death and disintegration. That is the way of people in times especially of transition, of instability and insecurity, when there is turmoil and social upheaval, poverty and unemployment. Then people seek refuge in fundamentalisms of all kinds. They look for scapegoats, who are provided by those who are different in appearance, in behavior, in race and in thought. People become impatient of ambivalence. Differences of opinion are not tolerated and simplistic answers are the vogue, whereas the reality is that the issues are complex. We need so much to work for coexistence, for tolerance, and to say, "I disagree with you, but I will defend to the death your right to your opinion. There is room for everyone; there is room for every culture, race, language and point of view.

Chapter 2 : Solidarity in Words, Solidarity in Action | News and Press Center

On 28 January, the MHCC marched with the VPS Pride Network contingent at the Midsumma Festival Pride March, celebrating the diversity and solidarity of LGBTI people, and acknowledging the journey towards equality.

She is a writer and community builder, and currently serves as the interim pastor of Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship in Elkhart. Here she is pictured standing near the site at the Standing Rock encampment where direct action has been taking place. This post originally appeared on The Mennonite blog on Oct. Photo by Maria Thomas. Tribes that were once divided are finding reconciliation and unity in a movement of nonviolent resistance to protect the sacred lands and waters of the Lakota Sioux. During their gathering, they have been pepper-sprayed and attacked by dogs from DAPL private security and denied drinking water and sanitation from the state of North Dakota as they put their lives on the line for the Missouri River. Some Mennonites must have been at Sacred Stone Camp before us! The planned pipeline would cross under the Missouri River less than a mile from the Standing Rock Reservation, threatening their source of drinking water if or when an oil spill happens. The people we met emphasized that they are protecting the water not only for their tribe, but for everyone downstream as well. The pipeline is slated to cross rivers and waterways over times on its route south, heightening the chances of a disastrous spill as it passes through critical wildlife habitat and farmland in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois. Burning the crude oil transported by pipelines such as DAPL will worsen climate change, pushing us further toward catastrophe. Last month, scientists announced we have permanently passed ppm of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, 50 ppm above the threshold considered safe. Indigenous Peoples are among the most vulnerable populations who suffer the impact of non-native, carbon-energy based lifestyles. And they are also on the frontlines of the movement against climate change toward a more just, renewable way of living as part of creation rather than separate from it. First, DAPL did not adequately survey the historically and culturally significant area near the Missouri River where the pipeline will cross. DAPL construction has already bulldozed sacred sites, including an area where the tribe recently documented an important burial site. Second, the Army Corps of Engineers fast-tracked the pipeline permitting process through a review loophole known as Nationwide Permit 12 designed for small projects, rather than subjecting it to sufficient environmental review. Farmers and landowners in Iowa are also joining in a legal battle, since their land was seized through eminent domain for the same pipeline, considered by the state to be a public good. Pipeline construction on Army Corps of Engineers land 20 miles of both sides of the Missouri River was halted after a rather remarkable joint statement issued by the Department of Justice, the Department of the Army, and the Department of the Interior on Sept. In spite of the reasons outlined above to stop the pipeline, the courts may determine that the DAPL is completely legal. Yet the abolition movement to end slavery, the South African apartheid struggle, and the U. Today it is not just governments dispossessing people of their land, but multi-national corporations and banks set to make billions of dollars. Sign at the Oceti Sakowin Camp. Ken Gingerich The theft of land and resources that was justified in the name of Christianity and civilization is only one aspect of the Doctrine of Discovery. It was also a cultural and spiritual conquest of Indigenous identity. In the wake of this traumatic history, the movement represented at Standing Rock is resisting not only land colonization, but the colonization of Indigenous culture and spirit. During our time at Standing Rock, we observed an incredible swell of dignity and pride in Indigenous culture and identity, shown in dances and regalia, a school teaching Lakota language to children, and daily practices of ceremony and prayer. A young college student I met became emotional as he shared how his beloved grandfather let him borrow his tipi and showed him how to use it so that he could camp in a traditional way through the winter at Standing Rock. Another young man described the ways his participation in sweat lodge ceremonies has helped him recover a sense of belonging and heal from past wounds. A momentous cultural-spiritual revival is happening at Standing Rock. The people are reclaiming what was stolen, outlawed, and degraded for so long, and the healing energy is palpable. Can that healing extend to Mennonites, particularly those of European descent? We all need healing, since colonization damages not only Indigenous Peoples and other people of color, but also those of us who inherit

the benefits of conquest. When we returned from our time at Standing Rock, our all-white delegation reflected on the ways that solidarity with Standing Rock offered us opportunities to decolonize our own hearts and minds. It contributed to a worldview that sees land and water as resources to extract rather than gifts of the Creator; as obstacles to progress and development rather than relations we are bound to protect and honor. As our delegation spent time talking, eating, praying and camping alongside Indigenous sisters and brothers, our eyes were increasingly opened to a different way of seeing the world as sacred and interconnected. There are paths within our Judeo-Christian tradition and scriptures to both remember this way that leads to life and to repent of the ways of death that inevitably destroy us all. Before we left, our delegation gathered at the river to pray for the waters and for the water protectors willing to risk so much. We collected some of the water to carry home with us to remember our time and our commitment to continue the work of healing. The Sunday I returned to Elkhart, I poured the waters of the Cannonball River which flows into the Missouri together with the waters of the Elkhart River in a prayer of unity. As our separate waters flow together and become one, may we also be unified in love for one another and for all land and waters, heeding the example and call of Indigenous Peoples to protect sacred life under threat everywhere.

Chapter 3 : Discover | Paris

Celebrating diversity has always been "in" #JoinTogether is a hashtag promoted by the United Nations, but already many others have started their own multicultural information awareness.

Music and the Arts "Art and music are the crystallization of the human spirit. In a sense, it is a spiritual window through which we converse with the life of the vast universe. The power of art can break the shackles that bind and divide human beings. It transcends any ostentation or concerns of status to create bonds among ordinary human beings. Art issues no commands like those of authority or power; art simply calls out to the human heart. Nonetheless, its influence conceals a strength that far exceeds any form of authority, wealth or fame. This response, this echo within the heart, is proof that human hearts can transcend the barriers of time and space and nationality. Exchanges in the field of culture can play an important role in enabling people to overcome mistrust and prejudice and build peace. This is the spirit of a genuine artist. If life goes smoothly all the time, we risk growing arrogant and conceited. Such a shallow individual cannot produce truly outstanding art. Creating and appreciating art set free the soul trapped deep within us. That is why art causes such joy. Those who see such art are moved by its passion, its strength, its intensity and its beauty. That is why it is impossible to separate fully human life from art. Art enriches people; it enriches society. Artists have the power to affect an immense number of people in a very profound way. What a great role this power plays in the victory of the people! While celebrating the unique characteristics of different peoples and cultures, we have to create solidarity on the level of our common humanity, our common life. Without such solidarity, there will be no future for the human race. Diversity should not beget conflict in the world, but richness. Rather, these very differences among cultures and civilizations should be valued as manifestations of the richness of our shared creativity. We must prize and learn from our differences and discover what is shared universally by all humanity while preserving the unique character of our respective cultures. I am convinced that the first step in education for global citizens must be to foster a respect for diversity. A genuinely cultured nation is a peaceful nation, and vice versa. When conflicts multiply, culture wanes and nations fall into a hellish existence. The history of the human race is a contest between culture and barbarity. It is one of the highest expressions of human victory. The efforts that artists make in perfecting and performing their art are in themselves efforts to create peace and culture for all humanity. They are a positive influence that lead to a heightening of human spirituality. The spirit of art and the spirit of peace are naturally bound together. Artists are the standard-bearers for the creation of peace. I am convinced that art, as an expression of life itself, constitutes the highest form of value creation. Exchange can be like the string of a lute striking harmonious vibrations in the hearts of all. There can be no such harmony, however, without a steadfast mutual recognition of equality. Unilateral cultural intrusions plant the dangerous seed of pride in the transmitter and fill the hearts of the recipients with feelings of inferiority or hatred. Genuine exchange can take place only when people approach one another with an honest sense of equality, mutual respect and appreciation of other cultures. To this end, exchanges in art and culture will be indispensable. Music, dance and works of art occupy a dimension that transcends borders. While they may be distinctively ethnic in flavor, they also have a quality that makes them universally accessible. This quality is what prompts me to consider promoting exchange in music and the arts. Josei Toda, also had emphasized the importance of cultural exchange. He often said that political and economic relations are ruled by calculations of power or gain, making them unstable and ephemeral, whereas exchange in the realm of culture is more enduring. Respect for other cultures leads to respect for the people of those cultures. The friendship that grows from such sentiment becomes an indestructible foundation for lasting peace. Religion cultivates the earth of our being, our life itself, while art brings flowers and the fruits of culture to bloom in that earth. But appreciating the art that is born from a particular religious tradition is not the same as believing in that religion. Though religious feeling may be the wellspring of artistic creation, once the art is created, it transcends religion. That is the power of beauty. The same is true of great art. It is this spirit that the German poet Heinrich Heine sang of when he wrote that once the peapod bursts open, the sugar peas inside are for everyone to enjoy. Art is not a slave to ideology or politics, nor is it a slave to religion. It

has a value all its own, and so it is only natural to recognize and treasure it. My purpose in founding Min-On is to return music to the people. It is to create a humanistic culture, join the hearts of people around the world through music, and to contribute to world peace. Tickets to such concerts were very expensive, most likely because promoters were looking to make a profit, which made them inaccessible to a large part of the population. Min-On determined to put the first priority on providing people with an opportunity to enjoy all types of music, including classical, opera and traditional Japanese. Music is for everyone. It is not the exclusive possession of the privileged or wealthy. We are serious about this. We are advancing a great movement for the people, for humanity. Thirty or forty years down the road, people will appreciate the profound significance Min-On has had in society. At the same time, it is up to us to make that happen. I want Min-On to become a global music association. I want people to say that it revived the musical world, that it gave rise to wonderful music, and that it linked the hearts of people and united the planet. Cultivating such a beautiful mind is a very worthy effort. Culture and art are not just decorations. They are not just accessories. What matters is whether culture enriches the essential substance of our lives.

Chapter 4 : Our Glorious Diversity: Why We Should Celebrate Difference | HuffPost

Celebrating diversity, solidarity and love at the Gay Pride Parade Posted by Desirée Taylor on April 2, SEIU Local nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals were proud to stand with our community at the 10th annual Gay Pride Parade in Miami Beach.

Chapter 5 : Mennonite delegation shows solidarity at Standing Rock encampment - Mennonite Church USA

Celebrating diversity has always been "in" Celebrating diversity has always been "in" #JoinTogether is a hashtag promoted by the United Nations, but already many others have started their.

Chapter 6 : International Peace Day | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Equality, DivErsity, soliDarity - Fighting with PRIDE for LGBT Rights in Ireland A Chairde, The starting point for Sinn Féin on all issues of human and civil rights and equality is the Proclamation of

Chapter 7 : About Min-On : Perspectives - Min-On Concert Association

The law of our being is to live in solidarity, friendship, helpfulness, unselfishness, interdependence and complementarity as sisters and brothers in one family -- the human family, God's family.

Chapter 8 : UNF - Commission on Diversity and Inclusion - Homepage

Cookout to celebrate cultural diversity September 3, Tiffany Rose Dawson Features At various times in the past, all 50 states, and sometimes 30 different countries, have been represented at Union, said Matthew Marshall, staff advisor for Mosaic, Union's racial and ethnic minority resource and support group.

Chapter 9 : MCI selected | Paris

1 Civic Nation Building: Legitimacy, Solidarity and Diversity Andrea Baumeister University of Stirling, UK atb1@blog.quintoapp.com One of the notable trends in political theory in recent years has been a renewed.