Resolution General
The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) resolves to use both our individual charisms and experience as religious leaders to 1) significantly build up nonviolent practices and a culture of nonviolence; and 2) to invite Pope Francis to offer an encyclical on nonviolence, which would include a shift to a just peace approach for transforming conflict.

Rationale
The biblical vision with Christ as the center of our lives and communities, our vows and our mission as religious call us to see the urgency of this issue, not simply as a justice and peace concern but as embedded in who we are as baptized Christians. Jesus called us to be merciful, to love our enemies, and be peacemakers (MT 5-7). In this year’s World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis affirmed that “true followers of Jesus embrace his teaching about nonviolence;” called us to “make active nonviolence our way of life;” and “pledged the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence.” This builds on Vatican II’s call to “strain every muscle to outlaw war.” We recognize that violence is too often pervasive in our societies, including in the form of structural and cultural violence. For example, we must change economic structures and investments that perpetuate preparations for war and the proliferation of weapons in our society. We need a deeper understanding of Gospel nonviolence to better live out our faith, transform our societies, and “build bridges” as well as cultures of just peace.

Resolution Specifics
1. **PRAY and CONFESS**: We resolve to pray for conversion to Gospel nonviolence in our personal habits, in our ministries, for our Catholic church and beyond. This includes ongoing confession of our own violence, and prayer for those we find difficult to love or who are identified as enemies.

2. **EDUCATE**: We resolve to regularly study, dialogue, and educate about the Gospel of nonviolence and a just peace approach. This includes our formation programs, schools, and preaching.

3. **TRAIN, ADVOCATE, and INVEST**: We resolve to significantly build up nonviolent practices, such as nonviolent communication, trauma-healing, restorative justice, unarmed civilian protection, nonviolent resistance, and nonviolent civilian-based defense. This includes skill training, advocacy, and when possible investment of our resources.

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3 We might also use a more explicit Nonviolent Eucharistic Prayer when liturgically possible. As one example, Fr. Emmanuel McCarthy, “The Nonviolent Eucharistic Jesus: A Pastoral Approach,” 2011.
4 “What is a Just Peace approach,” 2016, http://tinyurl.com/jn2x8jw
4. **SOLIDARITY and PROTECTION**: We resolve to offer accompaniment and nonviolent resistance for solidarity and protection of vulnerable immigrants, refugees, oppressed religious and ethnic minorities, elderly, unborn, prisoners and death row inmates, and other marginalized persons along with all of God’s creation.

5. **DE-LEGITIMATE WAR**: We resolve to not only build up alternatives to war and to other forms of direct violence, such as lethal force, but also to move away from justifying war. Thus, we resolve to concretely advance Vatican II’s call to “outlaw war,” and support similar international efforts as we promote a just peace approach for transforming conflict.

- August 3, 2017