

Never Again War!: Peace Boot Camp

2025



Never again war! This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering. It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally.
– Pope Leo XIV

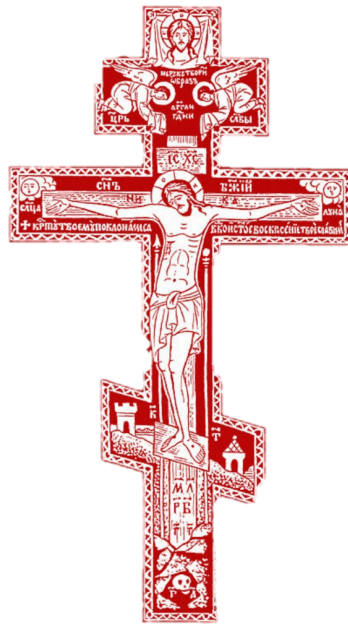
Peace is the fruit of love and service to others.
– Henri Nouwen

As the world becomes more aggressive, less open, and less capable of true dialogue, not to mention unabashedly self-concerned (Me first!), more than ever, we feel the need to gather ourselves and commit to something different even if only in a small way and for a short time. These efforts and choices, especially when they involve real struggle and renunciation are never insignificant. Who knows where they might lead? In this peace boot camp, the church offers us this opportunity to experience intensely its treasures of peacemaking, Christian non-violence, fraternal life, and prayer. This is a true opportunity and a gift. An opportunity to choose something different that truly matters for the world, not to mention our community and families.

We will read and reflect on Christian non-violence and listen to one another living a simple, common life in the beautiful nature surrounding St. Mary of Egypt Refuge, where we will work

together clearing paths and an encampment by the river. It will include canoeing, swimming, preparing meals, reflecting by campfire, and praying together in a chapel beside the river in the morning chill and night air. We will share an intense experience of comradery and focus on the most essential things in our lives.

The camp is open to young men between the ages of 16 and 40 who have demonstrated experience of community life. It will begin Sunday July 20th at 3 pm and continue until Wednesday July 23rd at 10 am. Participants will be expected to cover the costs of a shirt as well as a book on the Beatitudes that we will study during our time together. It will take place in the wild country on the outskirts of St. Mary of Egypt's Refuge outside Madoc, Ontario. Below is an itinerary of how we will spend the time and a list of things that you should bring.



Peace Boot Camp – Schedule

Day 1 – *Arrival*

- 3 – 5pm: *Orientation + Signing waivers*
- 6pm: *Vespers + Commissions Ceremony + Fr. Nicolaie Homily (at the beach)*
- 7pm: *Supper at Beach + Discussion and Objectives*
- 8.30pm: *Vigil Prayer*
- 10pm: *Bed*

Day 2 – *First Day of Peace Boot Camp*

- 5am: *Wake up before dawn + Prayer*
- 5.30am: *Pack canoes and travel to Beachhead and then Rapids Campsite*

- *Clear the trail walking toward the beachhead, clean the beachhead*
- 6am - 8am: *Work*
 - Clearing the Beach Head (chainsaw, bushwacker, clearing reeds, sticks and stones)
- 8am: *Breakfast* (Prayer + Reflection on the Cross)
- 8am – 11am: *Work*
- 11am: *Snack* (Prayer + Reflection from Church Fathers)
- 11am – 1pm: *Work*
- 1pm: *Lunch* (Prayer + Reading “On the Call to Holiness”)
- 1pm – 3pm: *Work*
- 3pm: *Snack* (Prayer + Reflection on the Cross)
- 3pm – 5pm: *Work + Return Tools*
- 5pm: *Return to Campsite*
- 5.30pm: *Swim*
- 6pm: *Supper*
- 7pm: *Reflection on Day + Gaudete et exultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)*
- 8.30pm: *Vigil Prayer*
- 10pm: *Bed*

Day 3 – Second Day of Peace Boot Camp

- 5am: *Wake up before dawn + Prayer*
- 5.30am: *Pack canoes and travel to Rapids Campsite*
- 6am: *Clear Trail from Rapids Campsite to Beachhead*
- 6am - 8am: *Work*
 - Clearing the Beachhead Part 2
- 8am: *Breakfast* (Prayer + First Reflection from Church Fathers)
- 8am – 11am: *Work*
- 11am: *Snack* (Prayer + Second Reflection from Church Fathers)
- 11am – 1pm: *Work*
- 1pm: *Lunch* (Prayer + Third Reflection from Church Fathers)
- 1pm – 3pm: *Work*
- 3pm: *Snack* (Prayer + Fourth Reflection from Church Fathers)
- 3pm – 5pm: *Erect Cross on Beachhead + Return Tools*
- 5pm: *Return to Campsite*
- 5.30pm: *Swim*
- 6pm: *Supper*

- 7pm: *Reflection on Day + Gaudete et exultate (Rejoice and Be Glad), Closing Remarks + Farewells*
- 8.30pm: *Vigil Prayer + Torchlight Procession through Forest*
- 10pm: *Bed*

Day 4 – Morning Prayer and End of Peace of Boot Camp

- 5am: *Wake up, prayer, have breakfast by campfire, pack up tents and camp,*
- 8.30am: *Breakfast and clean up*
- 10am: *End of Camp*

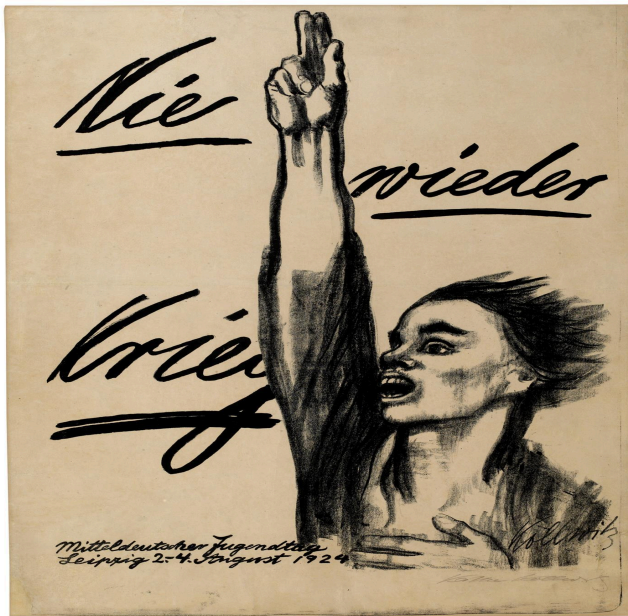


Items Needed by

- ☐ Many layers of long shirts) and clothes/rainwear. Heavy shirts, even a winter coat for cold nights.
- ☐ Bathing suit and towel.
- ☐ Sleeping bag.
- ☐ Toothbrush and hygiene products.
- ☐ Athletic footwear for the forest (ideally hiking boots).
- ☐ Sun Screen.
- ☐ Bug Spray.
- ☐ Water bottle.
- ☐ Hat.

Participants

clothing (long pants and changes of



"Never Again War!" (1924)
Anti-War Poster by Käthe Kollwitz