

Handout 10-G

# Dorothy Day and Pacifism

## Dorothy Day Time Line

- 1897 • Born in Brooklyn, New York.
- 1917 • Went to jail for demonstrating for women's suffrage outside the White House.
- 1927 • Gave birth to a daughter. Became Catholic.
- 1933 • Founded the Catholic Worker Movement with Peter Maurin.
- 1935 • Established a house of hospitality in New York City to assist the needy and downtrodden.
- 1936 • Declared that she and *The Catholic Worker* newspaper were pacifist in response to the Spanish Civil War.
- 1940s • Took a pacifist stand during World War II.
- 1950s • Led protests against compulsory air-raid drills in New York, saying they fostered a "war mentality."
- 1952 • Published her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*.
- 1960s • Was jailed for protesting the Vietnam War.
- 1965 • Influenced the bishops of Vatican II to include conscientious objection as a valid Christian response to war.
- 1973 • Went to jail for protesting alongside Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.
- 1980 • Died.

## Dorothy Day on Pacifism

Followers of Christ should not kill their brothers and sisters. We believe that Christ went beyond natural ethics and the Old Dispensation in this matter of force and war and taught nonviolence as a way of life.

We do not have faith in God if we depend upon the Atom Bomb.

(After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941) We are still pacifists. Our manifesto is the Sermon on the Mount. . . . Speaking for our conscientious objectors, we will not participate in armed warfare or in making munitions, or buy government bonds to promote the war.

It has become too late in human history to tolerate wars which none can win. All wars are, by their very nature, evil and destructive.

We must take a stand. We must renounce war as an instrument of policy. We must affirm that there will be no more war. Never—but never—again.

War is hunger, thirst, blindness, death. I call upon you to resist it. You young men should refuse to take up arms. Young women tear down the patriotic posters. And all of you—young and old—put away your flags.