



Season Fo Nonviolence 2025

Week 3

Addressing Homelessness Through Nonviolent Action

“People who are homeless are not social ‘inadequates.’ They are people without homes.”

Sheila McKechnie

To our friends on the journey of the nonviolent Jesus,

Why are we talking about homelessness in the Season For Nonviolence? According to many experts and human rights organizations, homelessness can be considered a form of structural violence against people, as it deprives individuals of basic human needs like shelter, leading to increased vulnerability to physical and mental health issues, discrimination, and often, direct acts of violence due to their housing situation.

In the Know:

Homelessness is on the rise in Milwaukee and Wisconsin. The latest data suggests that homelessness has increased in recent years after a decade of progress on this issue. The likely culprit, it seems, is the economic tumult caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, a nonpartisan research organization. Its recent report also suggests the decline in homelessness during the past decade resulted from national and local policy changes prioritizing stable, permanent housing over transitional beds and shelters.

“The rise in homelessness likely was driven – at least initially – by the layoffs and economic hardships that accompanied the pandemic and, more recently, by rising housing costs that

arrived in the wake of COVID-19,” the forum states, in a report that looks at local and state numbers.

Graham Kilmer, Urban Milwaukee, March 28, 2024

What does Scripture say about homelessness?

Isaiah 58:7

“Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.”

A Quiz!

[How much do you know about homelessness?](#)

A Nonviolent Hero Addressing Homelessness: [Dorothy Day](#) helped establish the Catholic Worker Movement and edited The Catholic Worker newspaper for many years. She lived in a Catholic Worker House, a Christian community dedicated to helping the poor.



A homeless tent encampment on the edge of MacArthur Square.

Photo by Jeramey Jannene

Who to Contact to Stand Against Homeless Violence in Milwaukee:

[Hope House](#)

[Housing First](#)

[Street Angels](#)

Active Nonviolence: Homelessness

Easy: Donate toiletry items, menstrual supplies, socks, and gloves to [Casa Maria](#) or [Hope House](#).

A Bit More: Contact your legislators to encourage the housing first solution and provide a flexible array of support that impact housing stability. Find your representatives [here](#).

All In: Volunteer regularly at a local homeless shelter and attend local zoning ordinance meetings to voice support for affordable housing in your neighborhood.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Amen**