

**ST. PAUL'S LAY COMMITTEE  
ON  
"CONTEMPORARY SPIRITUAL-&PUBLIC CONCERNS"**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**"Seeing The Image Of God In Others: Key To The Transformation Of Conflicts"  
*A Lecture by Rev. Prof. Raymond G. Helmick, S.J.***

The Lay Committee on Contemporary Spiritual-&Public Concerns (the "CSPC Committee") of St. Paul Parish, Cambridge, will hold the tenth lecture of its series on Saturday, April 21, 2007, 7:30-9:00 pm. Jesuit scholar and Track II Diplomat Rev. Prof. Raymond G. Helmick, S.J., will speak on "Seeing The Image Of God In Others: Key To The Transformation Of Conflicts." He has worked with everyone from Ian Paisley to Hamas. This event will be held in the Upper Church at St. Paul Parish, 29 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA. A reception will follow.

Rev. Helmick has traveled the world mediating disputes and resolving intractable conflicts, and has balanced his ability for highly-skilled diplomacy and scholarship with his vocation to the Roman Catholic priesthood as a Jesuit. He is Professor of Conflict Resolution in the Department of Theology at Boston College. Fr. Helmick's extensive career includes his mediation and continuing, close involvement with all parties of the conflict in Northern Ireland (since 1972); with Israelis and Palestinians (since 1985); and with the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey (1973-75; 1987-present). He has intervened simultaneously in several other countries: in Lebanon, East Timor, Southern Africa, and the countries of former Yugoslavia, including his mission with the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Belgrade in releasing three captured American soldiers in 1999.

Fr. Helmick's art of conflict management has enabled him to speak with parties from all sides of a dispute and to develop long-term, wide-ranging, continuing relationships as a result: from the grass roots to the highest levels of government officials; from peace groups to militant factions. He has worked extensively with Israeli Prime Ministers Peres, Shamir, Rabin, and Barak; and with the late Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). During the Mustafa Barzani rebellion in the 1970s, he counseled the Kurds of Iraq, and during the 1992 Kurdish elections in Northern Iraq, he served as an official observer at the request of both Massoud Barzani of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Fr. Helmick counseled Abdallah Ocalan of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey and yet also Turkish officials. In addition to the relationships he forged in Northern Ireland, spanning nearly four decades, Fr. Helmick developed a close association with several administrations, particularly the Clinton administration, to help establish peace in the Six Counties. He has reported consistently his Track II independent work to the U.S. Department of State and to Presidents Reagan, Bush

(41<sup>st</sup>), Clinton, Bush (43<sup>rd</sup>), and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as to the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, without becoming representative of any of them.

In Northern Ireland, Fr. Helmick was active in “Colleagues from American Churches.” He was appointed associate director of the “Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities” and was co-founder of the “Centre of Concern for Human Dignity,” a collaborative project between the English and Irish Jesuit Provinces. Since its founding in 1993, he has served on the advisory board of the “Organization for Human Rights in Iraq,” and in Washington, D.C., he worked for the establishment of the “United States Institute for Peace” (1981-1984). Since 1987, he has served on the “International Mission and Ecumenism Committee” (IMEC) of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI). Fr. Helmick is a founding board member and executive committee member of the “U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East.” He was named Senior Associate in the “Preventive Diplomacy Program” of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (2000-2004).

Rev. Prof. Helmick has authored many works, including books, journal and magazine articles, and conference papers. He wrote Negotiating Outside the Law: Why Camp David Failed (London: Pluto Press, 2004). He co-edited with Rodney Petersen Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Religion, Public Policy, and Conflict Transformation (Pennsylvania: Templeton Foundation Press, 1999), and co-authored with Richard Hauser A Social Option: A Social Planning Approach to the Conflict in Northern Ireland (London: Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities, 1975). In addition, he has co-produced several video documentaries with John Michalczyk.

Entering the Jesuit Order after graduating from Boston College High School, Fr. Helmick completed his novitiate/juniorate at Shadowbrook in Lenox, MA (1949-1954). He undertook philosophy studies at Weston College, Weston, MA (1954-1957), and from Boston College, where he obtained both a BA (1956) and an MA in philosophy (1957). He received a Licentiate in Philosophy from Weston Jesuit College in 1957, and established his teaching career at St. George’s College in Kingston, Jamaica (1957-1960). Fr. Helmick pursued further studies in undergraduate theology at Hochschule Sankt Georgen in Frankfurt am Main, Germany (1960-1964), where he was ordained in 1963 and received a Licentiate in Theology in 1964. He completed his Jesuit tertianship in Pomfret, CT (1964-1965), and returned to teaching at St. George’s College (1965-1967), before he began his studies in graduate theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he completed all the work for a Th.D. (1967-1973); he is now researching a book to update and expand his thesis topic.

The CSPC Committee is privileged to host this compelling lecturer. For further information on this and other lectures in the series, please visit our website: [www.saint-paul-cspc.org](http://www.saint-paul-cspc.org).