



Questions for “Jean Vanier on Bullying – for Catholic and Faith-Based Schools”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Begbln0nUgg>

1. The teacher speaking to Vanier suggests that the opposite of bullying is belonging. Does Vanier agree? Is this true in your experience?
2. Jesus’ vision was to build a community, a place of unity and peace. His community included many people who were marginal in his society. (a) Had you thought about Jesus before as a community-builder or a peacemaker? (b) Can you think of examples in Jesus’ life that illustrate what Jean is saying? (c) Concretely, what does peace look like? (d) How do we create peace?
3. Jean Vanier speaks of “the greatest tyranny of the 20th century and he names five groups that Hitler tried to destroy. What 5 groups does he list? (note: Vanier refers to the Roma people using the French word, “Rom.”) Are these 5 groups still persecuted today?
4. Jean talks about building democracy and places of unity and sharing as the way to counter tyranny. How in your classroom or school do you try to build a place where each person is respected and can contribute?
5. Jean says, “In all of us there is violence.” (a) On a personal level, would you agree with this statement? (b) If there is violence in you, when does it tend to surface? (c) On an international scale, when does violence tend to occur? (Jean’s view is that violence comes when people feel “weak”—when they feel vulnerable, disempowered, pushed to the extreme, and needing to be in control.) Jean says we need to discover that violence can be transformed into tenderness and love—that is, a greater acceptance of every person as they are. (d) Reflect on a time when violence in you was somehow transformed. Was there a program or activity or person who helped you in this transformation?

Questions prepared by Greg Rogers, M.Ed, and Beth Porter, M.A.