



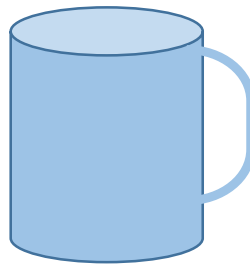
Pace E Bene Nonviolence Service

www.paceebene.org www.paceebene.org.au www.nonviolentinterfaithleadership.org

Pace e Bene (pronounced pah-chay-bay-nay) means "peace and all good" in Italian and was an expression used by St. Francis of Assisi as a greeting and as a means of proclaiming the way of nonviolence in the midst of a violent world.

Facilitated by Brendan McKeague

The Mug



Invite two people (A and B) to stand facing each other with a mug held out, on the flat palm of hand (or on a table), between them.

For person A, the handle of the mug will be on the right, for person B, the handle will be on the left.

Person A asks person B to describe the mug (eg colour, design, empty, used for drinking....) and listens for a short time. Person A agrees with this, then states:

'The handle is on the right, isn't it?'

'No – it's on the left'



Each defends their own view of the mug...escalating the argument, declaring the other to be wrong, insulting the other and even recruiting those who have a similar view of the mug (ie those sitting behind A and B) to support their argument. Each can fling insults...eg question eyesight, level of observation, not being truthful, gender/cultural bias... raising noise and energy to an 'us and them' confrontation.



Pause: ask someone sitting on the side of the circle *'who is correct here?'*

"You are both wrong, the handle is in the middle!"



And from the opposite side: *'who is correct here?'*

"You are both wrong, there is NO handle!"

Conclude the activity, before it gets too 'heated' and invite reflection on 'what happened here?'

'Every point of view is a view from a point' (Richard Rohr ofm)