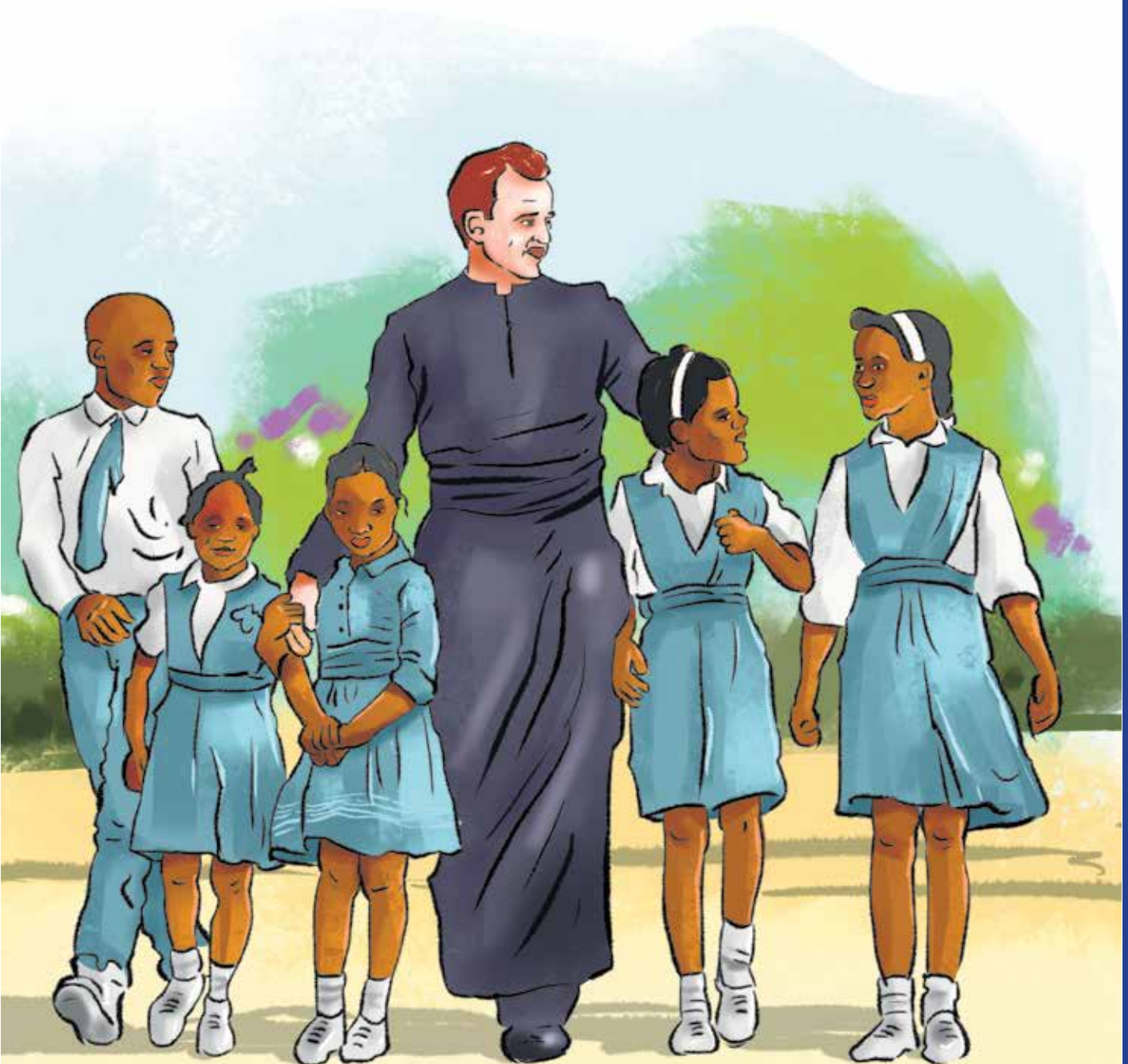




Happy are the Peacemakers

Making peace demands great inner strength and sacrifice unlike fighting a war. That is why you have never heard of an award for waging or winning a war. In fact, the Noble Peace Prize is awarded annually to those who promote peace.

Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk who lived in the US, wrote how making peace involves the most heroic labour and the most difficult sacrifice. "It demands greater heroism than war," he observed.



As we reflect upon the seventh Beatitude, it is important to know that when human relationships go wrong it leads to major disturbances in the lives of individuals, communities and nations. To repair a broken relationship is never an easy task.

Making peace was an important part of the life and mission of Jesus. He came to restore the peace between God and humans which was damaged due to the disobedience of humans

Jesus, therefore, made peace the most important condition for humans to be called the children of God.

One of the greatest peacemakers, Reverend Martin Luther King, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for working towards racial unity in the United States. He led the struggle of the African-American people against the racial discrimination and exploitation by the majority community.

Father Maurice Ouellet, an American priest, was a great supporter of Rev. King. In fact, the Nobel Prize winner called him the "one white man in Selma who is black." This was because the Catholic priest chose to identify himself with the African-Americans like God identifies with us - human beings, through the incarnation of Jesus.

Peace becomes possible only when we look at a fellow human as an image of God. But if we look at humans in terms of their colour, race or caste, we can never achieve peace. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace and as His worthy disciples we are duty bound to follow His example.

Only then we will live the seventh Beatitude and be called the children of God.

