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April 25, 2016

Re: On the Passing of Father Raymond Helmick

A man of strength of character, non-negotiable dignity, with a fine, tender heart, Father Raymond Helmick never stopped, searching and working for peace. We traveled the world together, to Syria, Lebanon, the former Yugoslavia and other places haunted by war and despair. I learned so much from him. Much of my worldview, my belief and hope in reconciliation beyond gender and race and religion come from Father Helmick.

Though he is asleep today, Father Helmick will live as long as we remember him. So long as I breathe and think, I will always remember him as my global teacher and a very personal friend. I am deeply in his debt for the lessons taught and the examples exhibited.

Keep hope alive.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
President and founder
Rainbow PUSH Coalition