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Photos, clockwise from top center: Martin Sheen (CNS/Bob Roller); Bernard Lafayette (Wikimedia Commons); John Dear (Courtesy of John Dear); St. Joseph Sr. Helen Prejean (CNS/Paul Haring); Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr (CNS/Courtesy of Franciscan Media)

by NCR Staff

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The latest episode of "The Nonviolent Jesus" podcast features John Dear in conversation with civil rights leader Bernard Lafayette, a colleague of Martin Luther King Jr. The podcast can be [found here](#).

On the podcast, Dear, the founder of the Beatitudes Center for the Nonviolent Jesus, speaks with Lafayette, an activist and organizer who was part of the Nashville student movement. He worked closely with the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

An ordained Baptist minister, Lafayette, 84, founded the [Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies](#) at the University of Rhode Island.

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Future episodes:

- Episode 4 (Jan. 27): John Dear in conversation with St. Joseph Sr. [Helen Prejean](#), author of *Dead Man Walking*.
- Episode 5 (Feb. 3): John Dear in conversation with Franciscan Fr. [Richard Rohr](#) about his new book on the prophets, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*.

[A former Jesuit](#) and previously an NCR [columnist](#), Dear is executive director of the Beatitudes Center for the Nonviolent Jesus, a charitable organization founded in 2020 and based in Morro Bay, California.

Dear's most recent book, *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*, was published by [Orbis](#) in 2023.

This story appears in the **The Nonviolent Jesus podcast** feature series. [View the full series](#).