

Pax Christi Massachusetts Newsletter



Violence Ends Where Love Begins

Volume 26, Number 1, Summer-Fall 2019

Coordinator's Column

By Pat Ferrone

"The earth and its fullness belong to the Lord." –Ps. 24:1

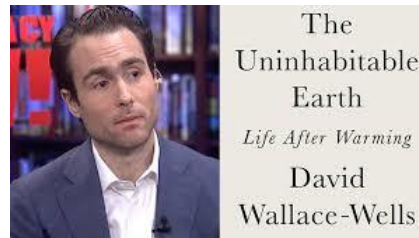
The days of summer have been consistently sunny and warm in the northern NY region where I spent much of the season. The garden grows, the Purple Martins are bright with song, and the fledglings have finally "flown the coop." The pond sparkles, and swimming tadpoles have become croakers of the night. When the weather is clear, stars and planets glow in the inky sky, pointing to places beyond our ken. It all seems so perfect. And it is - if I confine my senses to the immediate surroundings and absorb the "all of it." I am immersed in beauty, as well as the kind of peace that comes from the seeming stability of nature's recurring rhythms. God's ordered universe hums with assurance.

But sometimes, the appreciation of beauty-scapes seems ordinary, or like a mere distraction or indulgence, rather than a reminder of how deeply responsible we are for maintaining the world's health and vitality. So I am compelled to remind myself of the actuality of life as lived in whole areas of the globe blighted by conflict and war, hapless refugees, scarce water and drought-affected earth, or lands

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awash with storms and floods. There's no escape now from the real backdrop of millions of lives, placing "Care for Our Common Home" at the heart of our concerns. It is an existential and spiritual alignment too long in coming, but essential to any kind of viable future for the world's community.

Most scientists concur with the data that says unless we immediately reverse our dependency on fossil fuels, the increasingly dire results of the climate crisis will overtake the planet, yielding chaos beyond



imagining. David Wallace-Wells, in *The Uninhabitable Earth* (Tim Duggan Books, 2019), says, "It is worse, much worse, than you think. The slowness of climate change is a fairy tale, perhaps as pernicious as the one that says it isn't happening at all." "In fact," he says, "more than half of the carbon exhaled into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels has been emitted in just the past three decades." He also mentions the UN

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Remembering Mike True: Peacemaker, Mentor, Friend

By Mike Moran

We met in September 1965, when I began my sophomore (first) year at Assumption College in Worcester as a transfer student from UMass Amherst, where my freshman year had convinced me that to succeed in college, I would need a smaller institution, where I could find more personal attention and support.

That's exactly what I got from many faculty and staff at Assumption, but especially from a junior professor named Mike True, who was also starting his first year at the college and had been assigned to me, an English major, as my faculty advisor.

Our regular meetings not only embraced the usual academic matters but opened me, a quiet introvert from a small town, to the campus community and the wider world like nothing else in my undergraduate experience. Mike made sure that I was thinking beyond the classroom and soon began inviting me and other students to informal gatherings that he and his resourceful wife Mary Pat hosted in their spacious home at 4 Westland Street in Worcester.

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NOTE: To promote a greener future with a leaner budget, print copies of this newsletter are mailed only to our readers who have no access to email.

Coordinator's Column

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projection that by 2050, there will be 200 million climate refugees roaming the world, looking for their fair share of life. Currently, the UN cites 65.8 million uprooted, desperate people in need of safety.

Then, there are the other portents of gloom that are but a TV "breaking news" broadcast, or a broadsheet, away, keeping us anxious, and eroding hope in a future. We are becoming sick with the persistence of violence, the fear of nuclear exchanges, and are so inundated with spewed hatred, that our spirits are unwittingly calloused by still another despicable rant - or, God help us, by another mass shooting. As I write, they number 255 so far this year, but who knows what tomorrow might bring - (still another, on August 14).

Without spiritual resources, the sustaining spirit of Love incarnated in our lives, or active resistance and the creation of new possibilities, we will certainly succumb to the weight of it all. Yeats captures the spirit of the present-day, analogous to the dark time a century ago (and ever since) in "The Second Coming," written in 1919 after the nightmare of World War I:

"Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed,
and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;

The best lack all conviction, while
the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."

And yet, despite it all...because of it all...in the midst of assaultive waves of grim begettings of human sin and error...we persist, if only in a hope that may flicker, but can become stronger if we join with others in action. Sixteen-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg says, "Instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then and only then will hope come." And, she adds, "I want you to act as you would in a crisis," "...act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."



Greta Thunberg (thelocal.se)

From another perspective, Mary Oliver, the Patron Saint of Wonder, and keen observer of minute manifestations of God's creation, reminds us in her poetry and essays of a necessary contemplation, perhaps another path to "transformational action" to save our souls, as well as the only home we have: "Teach the children ...Show them daisies and the pale hepatica...give them peppermint to put in their pockets as they go to school...Give them the fields and the woods and the possibility of the world salvaged from the lords of profit...rejoice as they learn to love this green space they live in..." Her words, emanating from a life of gratitude and "seeing," speak of the most lasting kind of healing - that which first arises from awe, and the loving regard for creatures and planet alike - and acts on their behalf."

At this point in time, it is clear that all the discrete issues related to violence with which Pax Christi is involved, are deeply inter-related: all consolidated under the umbrella of human hubris and the grasping disease of short-sighted exploitation, big profits and the extreme failure to recognize the true interdependence of all of us. Recall for just a minute the films depicting the ocean's garbage dump, fed by rivers aclog with throwaway plastic and flowing toward the backyard shore of otherwise pristine islands. We applaud the efforts underway, but with 8 million tons of plastic making its way into oceans every year, is it possible to dream a big enough solution to this monster invasion?

We are our brothers' (and sisters') keepers, meant to gentle our hearts, to love ourselves and all others, and to open ourselves to the love of God and to "the expectation of a world (modeled) according to God's will, or to put it another way, according to God's love." (Christian Hope, from Taizé) Will/Can we do it while there is a window of time open to us?

In our decision to respond as people of faith to the growing movement to rescue our world that cries for mercy, we invite you to participate in the Pax Christi MA Fall Assembly on November 9, called "Tending the Garden To Create a Sustainable Earth - Perils and Possibilities," led by Fr. Emmet Farrell. Fr Emmet is Director of Creation Care Ministry for the Diocese of San Diego, California. Using Pope Francis' encyclical, "On Care for Our Common Home - Laudato Si" as his starting point, Fr. Emmet will help us find holy inspiration to inspire hope for the great efforts before us.

-Pat Ferrone is co-coordinator, with Fr. Rocco Puopolo, of Pax Christi Massachusetts.

Remembering Mike True...

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There I also met the younger members of their growing family, which by then included Mary Laurel, Michael, and John, with Chris and the twins, Anne and Betsy, soon to be added to their ranks. I don't ever remember Mike or Mary Pat being cross with their children in what must have been a very chaotic home environment.

In January of my first year at Assumption, Mike consoled me on the sudden loss of my Dad, who died on his 48th birthday from rheumatic heart fever. Mike was instrumental, along with my Mom, in dissuading me from leaving school temporarily to help support my family, including five younger brothers.



Mike in the 1960s (legacy.com)

By my second year at Assumption, I was taking courses like one Mike taught on the great English writer John Milton, whose epic poem "Paradise Lost" Mike presented as a parable of the Vietnam War, which was then escalating seriously. This innovative strategy was controversial among some students, but it forced us to grapple with issues like the morality of the war and the military draft we would all

face upon graduation.

By my senior year Mike was inviting a series of distinguished speakers to campus. The two who most impressed me were the poet Denise Levertov and Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day. I still remember how easy it was to talk with Dorothy, who was very modest about her lifetime of courageous activism (I learned later that she and Mike celebrated their shared birthday, November 8, together at least once).

When I lost my student deferment from the draft on graduating from Assumption in 1968, I applied for conscientious objector status, and Mike wrote an eloquent letter in support of my claim. But all three members of my local draft board were Catholic World War II veterans, who didn't understand how a fellow Catholic could be a conscientious objector, so they declined to approve my application.

I eventually received I-O status only after I got a high number in the draft lottery several years later. Mike was a constant source of moral support and spiritual guidance for me during this difficult period.

For a few years after graduation, I lived and worked in the Worcester area, where I also became a draft counselor with the Interfaith Center for Draft Information. Mike was a board member at ICDI, whose director was the legendary Annabel Wolfson. Mike lovingly chronicled her remarkable life in his book *Justice Seekers, Peace Makers* (Twenty-Third Publications, 1985).

Throughout his half-century in Worcester, Mike was often on the front lines of nonviolent direct action. PCMA board member Sue Malone has fond and respectful memories of demonstrating with

Mike and Mary Laurel on several occasions during the 1980s outside the General Electric plant in Westborough against GE's role in manufacturing Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Mike and I were in less frequent contact for a number of years later, but our paths often crossed at peace-related events, including meetings of Pax Christi Massachusetts, which Mike co-founded in 1991. He faithfully sent me copies of his latest publications, and I'm now the proud owner of every book he wrote, each (except one) with a personal inscription.



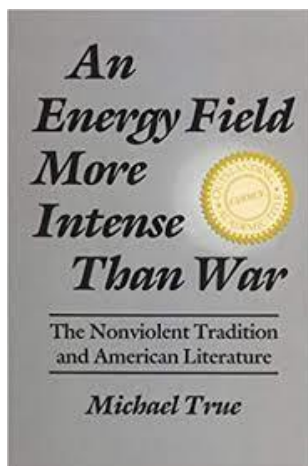
In the 2000s (commondreams.org)

For the last five or six years of his life, we met several times a year for lunch at our favorite Worcester restaurant, the Sole Proprietor on Highland Street. Sometimes it was just the two of us; at other times we were joined by mutual friends like Sisters of Saint Joseph Jane Morrissey, Maryanne Guertin, and Kathleen Keating, all of whom had worked with Mike academically and/or through the peace movement. The breadth of his reading and intellectual and spiritual interests inspired some of the most stimulating conversations of my life.

One of my fondest recent memories of Mike is a day I spent with him this past December at the Goddard Institute in Worcester, where he and

Mary Pat lived for several years before they moved to Minneapolis in February. He had asked me to join him in editing his draft of a new travel memoir, which I believe will be published soon (alas, with no inscription to me from Mike). There can be no greater honor for a student than to be regarded as an equal judge of good writing by his teacher who is also a distinguished author of long standing.

I still cherish a voicemail from Mike that I received this past January, in which he exudes the same clarity of thought and joy in life that he showed at the bon voyage party



Mike's favorite (and mine) of his published books ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

organized for him and Mary Pat by Claire and Scott Schaeffer-Duffy and other Worcester family and friends at Goddard in February.

After his passing in Minnesota on April 28 at the age of 85, the depth of Mike's positive influence on the Worcester community and on the work of many organizations, including Pax Christi, for peace was movingly expressed at a memorial service on June 1 at Mechanics Hall by a wide range of speakers like U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern, Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty, and David O'Brien, Mike's friend, academic colleague, and fellow

peacemaker for half a century, who also movingly hosted the event.

Much as I and many others now miss the power of Mike's presence in our lives, we know that we can best honor him by continuing to perform the works of peace, justice, and nonviolence that he taught his students can transform the world. In the words of his beloved Joan Baez, we should all "carry it on."

-Mike Moran is the editor of this newsletter.

Pax Christi Regional & National Leaders Meet in D.C.

By Pat Ferrone

From July 18-21, perhaps sensing the need for communal support and discernment, and an atmosphere in which to recoup depleted energies and immerse ourselves in the Spirit, Pax Christi USA invited regional leaders to join with the national council in D.C. for a weekend of prayer and sharing. Ten out of 16 regions in the U.S. were represented by coordinators, with the one drawback that some, after lives dedicated to gospel nonviolence and peacemaking efforts, have become weary, and though still committed, admit they are "aging out" of activism.

However, we were rightfully heartened by the news brought to us by Sr. Rosemarie Tresp at the first joint session of national and regional leaders. She was among the 70 Catholic sisters, priests, and lay faithful arrested as part of a "Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children" at the Russell Senate Office Building, protesting Trump's immigration policies and the detention of children. One of the

signs read, "Those Are My Kids" - God. Hundreds of supporters also gathered to witness outside the U.S. Capitol. 50 of the 70 arrested were sisters, one as old as 90.

The day was organized by a coalition of more than 15 Catholic groups, including Pax Christi USA, the Sisters of Mercy, Faith in Action, the Franciscan Action Network, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Seven U.S. Bishops made statements in support of the Day of Action, including the new Bishop President of Pax Christi (February 2018), John Stowe of Lexington, KY.



([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))

Part of his statement said, "I believe U.S. Catholics must take a look at how our support of the fundamental right to life has become separated from the even more basic truth of the dignity of each human person," and "Cruelty toward the suffering and bullying the most vulnerable should not be national policy and we cannot allow it to continue."

Though only some of us could be part of the whole gathering because of later arrival times in D.C., we were in solidarity with the spirit of the day that blended prayer, public witness, and nonviolent resistance on behalf of those who suffer the "serious atrocities" of our government (Bishop John Stowe). During the course of the weekend, one regional leader spoke of her time at the border in Tijuana with a Meta Peace Team as an observer. As they encountered mothers and fathers seeking refuge with their children, team members

urged parents to write all pertinent information, using an indelible pen - the child's name, age, parents' names, relatives - on the bellies of their kids...in case they were taken from them.

The weekend was designed to give ample time for separate meetings of the regional leaders and the national council, as well as for shared sessions, where we openly collaborated on ideas regarding the structure of Pax Christi (perhaps best envisioned as both), and talked about the different issues being worked on in the regions, and future hopes. The time spent in both settings was valuable as the atmosphere was consistently one of respectful listening to one another's perspectives.

Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau's presence as Interim Chair of Pax Christi USA and Robert Shine's as Chair of the National Council were instrumental in guiding the sessions as we discussed a task force to update the definition of a Region and the role of Regional leaders. Also of importance was how to cultivate alliances with groups working on similar issues, and how to encourage the voices of young people and to support their initiatives, many currently addressing climate issues.

Some other conclusions were agreed upon: Prayer, Study, Action continues to be a valid format to assess and create responses to issues; expanding the influence and membership of Pax Christi as The Catholic Peace Movement, and urging participation and validation by more bishops and parish priests is crucial. Thanking those who take public and pastoral stances on contemporary issues, as did the seven bishops regarding the recent D.C. gathering, is important.

Abolition of the Just War, and the commitment and promotion of Jesus' Gospel nonviolence (Catholic Nonviolence Initiative) as our spiritual and activist underpinning continues to be the essential gift of Pax Christi to the church, and is seen as a tool for unmasking and linking militarism, nuclear weapons buildup, gun violence, racism and abhorrent immigration policies, as well as the desecration of the earth, etc.

Ongoing communication among regional and national leaders is both necessary and energizing. Discouragement seems to come when working in isolation. For my part, I was grateful to hear of the ingenuity of other regions: in the northern California region, for instance, a black cloth on which the name of a person scheduled for execution is draped over the entrance to a church, and they have initiated an essay contest for



*Attendees at the PC/DC meeting
(photo courtesy of Pat Ferrone)*

Catholic high school students that addresses violence and Catholic social teaching; a monthly, 5 year long vigil is held in metro D.C. protesting drones; walks for justice, in Illinois; a new Pax Christi group was created in a residence by retired Maryknoll priests; a public "Penny Pole" was created at Tax Time in Washington state where people have the opportunity to drop 10 pennies in jars to cite budget priorities.

There was talk of gifting membership in Pax Christi to bishops; a vigil on Ash Wednesday and walk from Ellis Island to the Elizabeth Detention Center organized by Pax Christi NJ was held this year.

Regrettably, I am only scratching the surface of the richness and complexity of the days we spent together in D.C. Working with a non-hierarchical model (derived from nun-based spirituality!), we hope to work toward a vision of creating Pax Christi chapters in every diocese and on college campuses, to practice unity in diversity, optimally use social media in new and creative ways, and communicate with each other through a shared data base.

I thank the Pax Christi board for supporting my participation.

An Essential Book for Pax Christi Readers

By Mike Moran

A recent book by two local authors with close ties to Pax Christi Massachusetts offers important lessons and valuable inspiration for readers of this newsletter. *Loving Life on the Margins* is a personal and collective memoir by Suzanne and Brayton Shanley which tells, as their subtitle indicates, "the story of the Agape community."

Having worked with the Shanleys for the past 25 years or so, I thought I knew them pretty well. But I learned a lot from the early chapters that I hadn't known before: about Suzanne's working class roots in Buffalo, NY, as the middle child of a Polish-American mother and French-American father; about Brayton's middle class background growing up as the younger child of Irish-American parents in Pelham, NY;

and about how they met in Boston in 1974, where both had moved to find meaningful work after completing their undergraduate degrees at SUNY Buffalo (Suzanne) and St. Anselm's College (Brayton).

One of the book's most appealing features is that the authors write alternating chapters in their own words. So we hear both their perspectives on: their 1980 "Quatholic" wedding in Cambridge, celebrated by Paulist Fr. Joachim Lally, with a homily by Liz McAlister; the start of the Agape community in their Brockton home; and the adoption in 1986 of their baby daughter Teresa.

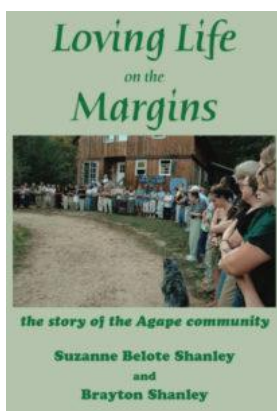
While we meet many public figures whose lives intersected with those of the Shanleys – Dan and Phil Berrigan; Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy; Wally and Juanita Nelson; Dave Dellinger; and Roy Bourgeois, to name just a few - some of their most affecting portraits are of people on the margins of society, like: Joanne, an imprisoned young mother of three children, whom Suzanne met while serving a sentence at MCI Framingham for civil disobedience; and Billy Neal Moore, whose release from death row in Georgia was spearheaded by a national campaign, including the Shanleys, and who remains their close friend and a regular visitor to Agape.

Other previously unsung heroes who emerge from these pages are the master builders of Agape's first home in Hardwick, Francis House, in the late 1980s – Bob Wegener, Dan Lawrence, and their team – and of the straw-bale Brigid House ten years later – Clem Watson, Mark Korban, and their team. Brayton's detailed accounts of both projects, and of the grease car that still serves the community, highlight the environmental responsibility that

underlies every aspect of Agape life.

We learn that besides growing their own food to provide a rich vegetarian diet, daily life at Agape includes many more ways of witnessing gospel nonviolence, from demonstrating on the streets of nearby Ware to welcoming the stranger, as they did in embracing the Kader family after father Sabah and his young sons Omar and Ali emigrated from Iraq to Boston following the 2005 death of Suad, Sabah's wife and the boys' mother, at the hands of American soldiers who fired at their van in Mosul.

Though sometimes at odds with the Church establishment, Agape numbers many Catholic priests, nuns, and members of other religious communities among their



most committed supporters. Not surprisingly, Pax Christi turns up often in the book as Agape partners and collaborators, whether inviting the Shanleys as presenters at PCMA assemblies, honoring them with the PCMA Peacemaker of the Year award, or joining them on the barricades, as PCMA co-coordinator Pat Ferrone did several years ago when they and other death penalty opponents vigiled weekly outside the courthouse where Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokar Tsarnaev was being tried.

The lively text of the book is

enhanced by almost 100 lovely photos. Among my favorites are: Suzanne as senior class president at Bishop Colton High School in Buffalo surrounded by enthusiastic classmates, all in their school uniforms, foreshadowing the charismatic leader so many of us know (page 20); and Brayton on his graduation day at St. Anselm's, in full academic regalia, showing the same determination to change the world that he still exudes almost half a century later (page 14).

While not all of us are called to go "back to the land" as completely as the Shanleys have done, the community they so intentionally designed over three decades ago with co-founders Steve and Nancy James, who have since been giving desperately needed medical care to the poor in Haiti, offers many opportunities for direct participation in their mission (work days, student internships, public events, board membership, financial support, etc.) and gives us countless examples of smaller changes we can all make in our own lives to reduce our footprint on the earth through a just balance of diet, spiritual grounding, and renewable energy consumption while also building up Martin Luther King's "beloved community" of peace, justice, and nonviolent love (agape) in the world around us.

May the next generation of Agape leaders be as good and faithful stewards of God's creation as the founding giants on whose shoulders they humbly stand.

We mourn the August 27 passing at age 100 of longtime Agape and Pax Christi friend Frances Crowe. Thanks to Western MA PC member Charlotte Burns for the link below honoring Frances's life and work. Presente!
https://www.democracynow.org/2019/8/29/rememering_legendary_peace_activist_frances_crowe

Honoring Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter

Rev. Richard A. Bondi, pastor of Our Lay of the Hills Church in Haydenville, celebrated the annual Mass sponsored by Pax Christi Western MA in honor of Blessed Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter for broadcast on the local NBC affiliate's "The Chalice of Salvation" on August 11, 2019 and delivered this homily.

Possibly you have heard the old joke that goes: there was once an atheist who was also an avid mountain climber. One time, as he was going up a mountain he slipped and fell until at the last second he grabbed a branch sticking out from the side of the mountain. He hung there in midair between heaven and earth. As it happened, he suddenly got faith and called out, "Is there anyone up there? Save me!" A voice came from the heavens, "Do you really believe I can save you?" The climber answered, "I believe, I believe!" The voice replied, "Then let go of the branch." The mountain climber looked up to the skies and down to the earth far below. He looked up once again and said, "Is there anyone else up there?"

Today's readings speak to us powerfully about faith and ask each of us to consider how much we are really willing to let go of whatever branch it is that we believe gives us safety, respect, prominence, etc. and to truly trust God alone.

I would like to begin with our first reading from the Book of Wisdom. It is the latest of all books in the Old Testament, written in Alexandria in Egypt less than 100 years before our Lord was born. Because Alexandria was a major port city, the Jewish

people living there were tempted by all the commerce, learning, and simple exposure to multiple cultures and beliefs. As a result, some were turning away from their fidelity to the Lord God. The author reminded his listeners of their ancestors and how the Lord freed them in the Exodus from Egypt despite the overwhelming odds against them.

He portrays them as patient, faithful, and trusting as they looked forward to their freedom and their new homeland. They fully expected that God would keep His word and that in glorifying them before their oppressors, God would in turn be glorifying Himself. Indeed, the author of the Book of Wisdom reminds them that God was always faithful to His promises and that it was the people of Israel who were so often unfaithful.



Fr. Bondi with OLH parishioners (gazettenet.com)

The Letter to the Hebrews, the second reading, was written in the first century, when early Christians were being persecuted. The Roman Empire allowed the Jewish faith to be practiced, but it did not recognize Christianity as a legitimate religion. Thus, some Christians who had converted from Judaism were now thinking of returning to Judaism for their own safety. The author lists men and women in Israelite history who were tried and tested and yet proved faithful. Among the most famous names was, of course, Abraham. He was the first truly historical person to whom God revealed Himself some 16 or 17 centuries before Jesus came. Thus,

Abraham had no history or tradition upon which to rely when God called him to leave his native land far to the northeast of Israel for a new land. There was no reason for Abraham to accept and believe and yet he did.

God later promises that not only will Abraham have offspring but that they will be greater in number than all the stars in the sky or the sands on the shore of the sea. Again, Abraham believes this, although he and his wife Sarah were both very old. Sarah laughed at the idea, and thus when their first son was born, they named him Isaac, whose name literally means laughter. And as if that were not enough, God later calls Abraham to sacrifice the very son He had promised him.

This seems sheer madness to us. But because, horrifically, child sacrifice was known at the time, Abraham probably accepted that this new God was like so many other false gods at the time that demanded sacrifice. Obviously, this sacrifice did not happen, but the Lord recognized the enormous faith that Abraham had. Indeed one writer has called it a "leap of faith." Again, the author of Hebrews was calling his fellow believers to the same deep trust in God and His love and protection. The whole history of the Old Testament was living proof that God protected His chosen ones.

The Gospel today continues this same theme but it moves in two directions. In the first part of the reading, Jesus tells us where not to put our trust. So often we look to what we have – home, auto, bank account, job, title, education, you name it – and feel that these are the things that tell the world who we really are and what we have accomplished with our lives. This idea is summarized simply in the

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Pax Christi 2019 State Assembly

"The earth and its fullness belong to the Lord" Psalm 24.1

"Tending the Garden to Create a Sustainable Earth" ***Perils and Possibilities***

Saturday, November 9th at St. Susanna Parish
262 Needham Street, Dedham MA

For directions: www.saintsusanna.org

Registration begins at 8:45 am – Program 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Parish Mass at 4:00 pm for those who wish to remain.



Morning Session: "Inspired by Pope Francis' prophetic analysis of the our existential climate crisis in *"Laudato Si,"* **Fr. Emmet Farrell** will guide us toward a paradigm of hopeful engagement with the real (fearful?) issues facing humankind. Fr. Emmet comes to us from San Diego, where he is the Director of Creation Care Ministry for the Diocese of San Diego.

Afternoon Session: Beginning with a panel of practitioners. **Suzanne and Brayton Shanley**, founders of the "Agape Community" are engaged in their own "experiment in truth," as creators and innovators of a welcoming community based in prayer, simple sustainable living, gospel based peace education and activism. **Ryan Hagen** is a graduate of Villanova University. He hopes to activate others to respond to the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. His weekly newsletter can be found at Crowdsourcingsustainability.org. His vision is to "harness" the collaborative, collective wisdom of people of all ages to create a sustainable earth. **Sr. Betty Cawley CSJ** in her role as head of the Justice ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph offers resources and direction on environmental issues to all their various ministries. After the panel there will be time for two minute **"POP UP" sharing** from the participants, offering the practical wisdom of those who are present. Fr. Emmet will offer final remarks and recommendations.

Registration Form

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State _____ Phone/E-mail _____

____ Donation* \$40 at the door, \$35 if postmarked by October 23rd (Lunch Included)

____ Student with ID free: but do register (Lunch included)

I would like to be an Assembly Sponsor and will donate an additional tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to help defray the cost of the Assembly.

Mail Registration and check, made out to "Pax Christi MA" to:

Charles Gobron, 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760

*Scholarships available

www.paxchristima.org

For information: paxchristima@gmail.com

Honoring Franz...

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bumper sticker you may have seen that says: "Whoever dies with the most toys wins." Jesus knows that we all need material possessions on this earth, and He has promised us the Father's protective care. But Jesus also reminds us that these things, as good as they may be, do not define who we are. It is the spiritual realities, the Christian values that we hold and live, that tell us who we truly are and not just for now but for all eternity. He warns us that where our treasure is, there also will be our heart.

In the second part of the Gospel, He tells us that we are always to be alert and open and ready to welcome God's call and His presence in our lives. When I was in school, sometimes we students would get distracted and a teacher would say, "Come on, keep your eyes on the board." The Gospel today says to us, "Come on, keep your eyes on the Lord."

Indeed, if we were read beyond this section of the Gospel, Jesus would tell us of the enormous gift of faith that has been entrusted to us, and He would warn us that we who have been entrusted with so much will also be required to answer for more than others. Everything we have is a gift, therefore everything we have is to be held lightly and used not just for personal advantage but also for assistance to those who are suffering and in need, for the proclamation of the Gospel, and in thanksgiving to God.

Today I am pleased to acknowledge members of Pax Christi who form our chapel congregation. Pax Christi (which means the peace of Christ) is dedicated to witnessing to Christian nonviolence and to the

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rejection of war. Today we also remember Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, a layman and martyr of the church. Although he had a difficult start in life, Blessed Franz grew in his relationship with God over many years, especially after his marriage. When the Nazis of World War II tried to force him into military service, he refused based on his heartfelt belief that their cause was evil. He was not a total conscientious objector but would not be complicit in wrongdoing.



*At their wedding in 1936
(denvercatholic.org)*

In the end, and because of his deep faith, he had to let go of his life, being put to death on August 9, 1943, in order to remain free in his conscience to follow God. Today he is considered to be a role model for all who oppose evil and seek peace. The members of the local chapter of Pax Christi gather here each year to remember Blessed Franz and to remind us that the choices we make tell us truly where our hearts are. Loyalty to God is always difficult, but thankfully we have a long tradition of heroes in both sacred scripture and in the history of our church as role models of faith.

Today there are so many things to distract our attention. Like our ancestors of old, we live in a world that is not only filled with values and ideas that contradict our faith and our moral teachings, but also is immediately connected to all these ideas. Our TVs, radios, computers, cell phones, and iPads constantly seek to engage us in one piece of

information or another or some conversation. So many sales pitches that are used in various media regularly imply that we may not have the things we really need (or at least not enough of them) that will bring us true happiness.

Also, like our ancestors, we live in a world where it is often unpopular to hold our beliefs and in some places even unsafe. Yet Jesus simply tells us in the Gospel, "Be not afraid." This brief phrase is found many, many times in the Bible. There must be a reason for this frequent repetition. The great blessing that we have as Catholics is the heroes we know in the lives of the saints and martyrs. Each of them kept their eye on the Lord. Each of them chose to not be afraid. Each of them had to let go of whatever branch they might have wanted to hang onto for safety and instead open their hands and their arms and their hearts to embrace Jesus first, last and always. Do you really believe that I can save you? Yes, Lord, I believe, I do believe!

Report from Metro West Pax Christi

By Faith Madzar

**WHO BENEFITS FROM WAR?
STOP FUELING WAR IN YEMEN
WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER**

The words above are being used in our current posters, as we vigil in Natick. We meet at the intersection Route 27 and Route 135. We are members of Pax Christi and Peace Action from our local groups, and in late spring we gathered our posters for our weekly Saturday Vigil.

We hold up our signs for attention, cars occasionally toot their horns and wave, and some people start conversations. The first man who

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Celebrating the Agape Story

30 YEARS OF ST. FRANCIS DAY

Francis Day 2019
Open House, Reunion,
Community Celebration!



Join us:
Saturday, October 5th
10 AM - 4:30 PM

Whether you are
new to Agape, or a
longtime friend,
we invite you to
come see and
celebrate
a community
committed to
nonviolence,
contemplation,
& sustainable living.

Join us for a day animated by the Agape Mission Council featuring
Workshops, Reflections, Music, Skits, and More!
We will also have a chance to hear Brayton & Suzanne,
community co-founders, speak about and sign copies of
their new book, *Loving Life on the Margins*.

Bring friends, bring lunch, and join us for the day!

Co-Sponsors



413-967-9369

37th Anniversary
Agape
Community

2062 Greenwich Rd.
Hardwick, MA 01037

peace@agapecommunity.org

Letters...We Want To Hear from You

If you'd like to share your thoughts on any article in this newsletter with other readers, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your letters to the editor by email to moran3@comcast.net, or by USPS to Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Your letters will be published in our next issue as space allows.

Report from Metro..

Continued from page 9

stopped to speak with us remarked that "you aren't going to get anywhere with your ideas!"

He talked for about twenty minutes, expressing his opinions as he got his tires changed. We told him that we're working for peace and believe in nonviolent solutions.

A second man stopped and talked, stayed briefly, and he agreed with our thoughts.

Then something happened: a car stopped a short distance down from where we were standing. A young woman hurried out from the waiting car, and we could want to talk to us. She was from Yemen, and wearing a hijab. She began breathlessly, with heart breaking news of her home country. Her tears began to flow: "No one will help us", she cried out as she rushed back to the driver.

We felt some tears, too, as we gathered our posters for another time. The young woman left us with much more to think about.

-Faith Madzar is a member of Metro West PC from Natick.

Summer-Fall 2019

Is Building a Wall the Answer?

By Jane Griffin

Pax Christi at the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette hosted a program on April 4th to address the complex issue of immigration. Approximately 50-60 people attended. Bishop Edgar da Cunha of the Fall River Diocese presented Catholic social teaching on immigration and migration. Bishop da Cunha is a member of the USCCB Committee on Migration and serves on its Subcommittee for the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers.



(fallriverdiocese.org)

He noted that while the Church upholds the rights of nations to secure their borders and screen those seeking to enter, people also have the right to migrate in order to feed their families and protect them from violence. The Church underscores that families should not be separated. Bishop da Cunha described some of the ways in which the Church is responding with pastoral care, in the languages spoken by immigrants, and with legal, social and material support for those who have crossed our borders. Participants were invited to bring donations in support of Catholic Social Services. Their response was

a generous outpouring of needed items such as clothing, blankets and children's supplies. An information table featured educational materials about Catholic social teaching and the Safe Communities Act, pending legislation in Massachusetts which would help protect immigrants' rights. Participants were encouraged to write their state legislator in support of the Act. For more information, go to www.miracoalition.org.

Sheila Matthews, a member of Pax Christi and former lay missionary in Guatemala, introduced the film *Dying to Live*. Participants were clearly moved by the film, which documents the situations driving individuals and families to our southern border and the dangers of the journey. To learn more about how Catholics can and should respond to this crisis, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org

The LaSalette chapter of Pax Christi meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Reconciliation Chapel (at back of Shrine Church).

-Jane Griffin is a member of LaSalette Pax Christi.

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2018-2019

Co-Coordinator: Pat Ferrone 238 Harris Avenue Needham MA 02492 781-449-3890 patferrone@rcn.com	Secretary: Jeanne Allen 10 Sutton Place Easthampton MA 01027 413-527-0037 jeanne.allen@hbcinc.org
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Treasurer: Charles Gobron 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760 774-270-2442 cgobron@aol.com	Newsletter Editor: Mike Moran 135 Shearer Street Palmer, MA 01069 413-283-5716 moran3@comcast.net
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OTHER BOARD MEMBERS: Nancy Carapezza (Wayland); Irene Desharnais (Jamaica Plain); Phil Harak (Southampton); Sue Malone (Westborough); Sally Markey (Springfield); Rose Morrissey (Westborough); Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x. (Holliston), Co-Coordinator [508-429-2144]; frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org

Quarterly Board meetings (Sept 14, Dec 14, March 14, June 13), held in the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College in Worcester at 10:00 AM, are open to all PCMA members.

Local Groups

Berkshire P.C.

Carolyn Zablotny
P.O. Box 14
Mill River, MA 01244
berkshire.pax.christi@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Beverly P.C.

Karen Watkins
(978) 524-0029
bluelight-1@live.com
Sr. Linda Bessom, SND
(857) 236-1370
linda.bessom@sndden.org
Mtgs 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
St. Mary's Convent

Boston (Citywide) P.C.

Christina Abbey
Paulist Center, 5 Park St
Boston, MA
(781) 286-5004
LNCabbey2004@yahoo.com
Mtgs 1st Wednesday, 1-3 PM

Cape Cod P.C.

Edouard & Françoise Rocher
77 Old Post Road
Centerville, MA 02632
(508) 771-6737
paxchristi-cc@comcast.net
Our Lady of Victory
Centerville, MA 02632
Contact for meeting info

Central Mass P.C./Our Lady of

**Guadalupe P.C. (MCI
Shirley prison chapter)**
Roger & Charlotte Stanley
55 Pleasant Street
Berlin, MA 01503-1610
cstanley041258@verizon.net
St. Rose of Lima Parish
Northborough, MA 01532

Contact for meeting info

Fatima Shrine P.C.

Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.
101 Summer Street
Holliston, MA 01746
(508) 429-2144
frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 4:00 PM
Upper Room

Holy Cross College P.C. One

College St, Box 16-A
Worcester, MA 01610
Marty Kelly
(508) 793-2617
mkelly@holycross.edu
Meetings and activities geared
to college calendar

Holy Cross Parish P.C.

221 Plumtree Road
Springfield, MA 01118
Marilyn Paul-Lewis
(413) 739-3278
parishsocialministry@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Metro West P.C.

Membership info: Faith
fmadzar@gmail.com
Steadfast Hope info: Jan
peacejpl@comcast.net
Mtgs 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 PM
Natick Public Library

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette P.C.

Sheila Matthews
199 Maple Street
Somerset, MA 02726
(508) 674-8220
sheilmatthews@aol.com

Mtgs 3rd Tuesdays, 7:15
Chapel of Reconciliation

Rhode Island P.C.

Bill Waters
(401) 438-6612
wjtwj157@gmail.com
Fr. Ray Tetrault
(401) 374-5036
St. Peter's Church
Lower level
350 Fair Street
Warwick, RI 02888
Mtgs last Sunday, 6:00 PM

St. John's Prep P.C.

72 Spring Street
Danvers, MA 01923
Bill Mackinson
(978) 774-1057
wmackinson@stjohnsprep.org
Prayer for Peace, Tuesday
mornings, 7:45-8:00 AM

St. Susanna Parish P.C.

262 Needham Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Pat Ferrone
(781) 449-3890
parferrone@rcm.com
Contact for meeting info

Western Mass P.C.

Jeanne Allen
10 Sutton Place
Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-0037
jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 7:00 PM
Elms College, Chicopee

If you belong to a Pax Christi group that is not listed above, please let us know so we can add it to our list. If any information above is incorrect, please email corrections or additions to: moran3@comcast.net.

Pax Christi Massachusetts
6 Bolser Avenue
Natick, MA 01760