



Celebrating Sue Malone's Lifetime of Peacemaking

By Irene Desharnais

[Longtime Pax Christi MA board member Sue Malone died on February 5, 2021. At PCMA's Assembly in November 2019, her PCMA board colleague Irene Desharnais presented Sue with the only Lifetime Achievement Peacemaker Award we've ever given, after this introduction. -Ed.]

When the Pax Christi Board was considering a worthy recipient for a Lifetime Achievement Award, I immediately thought of Sue Malone. I have only known Sue for twelve years of her committed life, so I asked Sue's faithful partner, Jim, and her dear friend, Rose Morrissey, to provide me with the rest of the story. Jim sent me a partial list of Sue's activities, and I will mention a few of them.

Six years ago, when Sue invited me to become a member of the Pax Christi MA Board, I told her I would think about it. All the reasons to say "No" flooded into my head. "I am involved in too many causes already, the meetings are in Worcester, way beyond Route 128 for this Bostonian," etc. etc. etc. The next week I told Sue I would join the board! How could I say, "No" to a woman who has

worked over 50 years to promote peace and justice in our broken country??? Sue's unwavering dedication to nonviolence inspires me, and all the others she has brought into the Pax Christi circle, to be activists in the struggle to create a peaceful world.



Her accomplishments as a member of Pax Christi for over 40 years are truly remarkable. Sue was instrumental in the founding of Pax Christi in Massachusetts, and she has served as Coordinator of Pax Christi MA and as a longtime board member. She was the co-founder of the Peace and Social Justice Committee at St. Luke's

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Co-Cordinator's: Column: "It's Enough To Break Your Heart"

By Pat Ferrone

It's been almost a year since life became more difficult. Layers of uncertainty, fear, and extreme suffering were added to a world already under siege. Along with ongoing global conflicts, increased climate deterioration, and the rotten fruits of unchecked violence and lie-based politics, a marauding pandemic arrived and continues to cripple the world.

To date, the CDC reports that the number of Covid-19 cases in the US is more than 27,000,000. Deaths now exceed 500,000 - equivalent in number to the population of 16 towns the size of Needham, my home. The numbers jumble together, blunting the capacity to hold so much pain. We live in a state of perpetual mourning and disequilibrium, praying for something that resembles relief.

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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.

Co-Coordinator's Column...

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We have been masked since March - through spring, summer, fall, and now winter, and continue to be separated. The inability to be together and see facial expressions -to smile and laugh with others - is part of our mourning. School children are suffering terribly from the isolation and disruption of routines. On the plus side, we've slowed down a bit - especially in the beginning - grateful for a quieter pace. And maybe we're being just a bit kinder to the planet by keeping our cars in the driveway and staying home, putting less carbon into the atmosphere.

Most of us are doing the best we can, relying now on phone calls, FaceTime and the magic of Zoom World, which has kept us (almost) sane, and connected. Our calendars may be marked by too many meetings, but with up-close-and-personal virtuality, we stay connected.



Johnny Zokovitch (PCUSA)

Zoom was the means by which we brought Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA to town in October to speak on the theme of "Resilience and Hope in a Time of Chaos: Pax Christi Engaged!" Pax Christi members beyond the borders of Massachusetts participated, Johnny

brought a resurgence of possibility to the day as he outlined new initiatives and offered us a good dose of the medicine called "Hope." A Zoom recording is available on our website: <http://paxchristima.org/elementor-739/>

In December, into January, Trump's days in the presidency neared a bitter end that included a macabre six-month string of federal executions, ending only days before his term expired. In those waning days, one by one, the last of 13 doomed prisoners were strapped down to a gurney, their lives terminated with a lethal injection. Despite pleas and petitions and stories told of atrocious childhoods or mental disabilities, or questionable convictions, "power" held its ground, withholding mercy. Perhaps, like my friend Marc who was executed by lethal injection in 2017, each person expected a painless passage into the arms of God, not knowing that lethal injections are being challenged in state and federal courts on the basis of the 8th amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment."

A recent report by medical examiners showed that in at least 84% of a large group of autopsies performed on executed victims, including one done on Marc, severe pulmonary edema was found, a picture that "was more consistent with a slower death," in which "blood, plasma, and other fluids' filled the lungs, sometimes producing "froth and foam in the airways," thus inducing the feeling of suffocation or drowning, panic and terror:"

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/21/793177589/gasping-for-air-autopsies->

[reveal-troubling-effects-of-lethal-injection](#)

In "Fratelli Tutti" ("On Fraternity and Friendship"), Pope Francis quotes St. John Paul II who said, "not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this." Pope Francis continues by saying, "The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity



(uscbb.org)

of the human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe. If I do not deny that dignity to the worst of criminals, I will not deny it to anyone. I will give everyone the possibility of sharing this planet with me, despite all our differences." Clearly, the Pope seems to lead us to embrace the spirituality of Jesus' nonviolent love, which extends to all people.

During the final weeks of the executions, we at St. Susanna's Parish drew attention to them, participating in online prayer services for victims and perpetrators with Catholic Mobilizing Network, making calls to the White House, sharing information and protest through the local newspaper, and holding two prayer vigils. At the second,

we remembered the last three victims whose lives would be taken: Lisa Montgomery, Corey Johnson, and Dustin Higgs.

Lisa was the first woman to be executed by the federal government in 67 years. We read aloud written narratives based on information gleaned from their distressing histories of abuse and neglect. For instance, Lisa, guilty of a murder committed in 2004, was imagined to say, "I was born with brain damage because my mom was alcoholic and couldn't stop drinking... (she) was violent and forgot about us - or got so mad



Lisa Montgomery (bbc.com)

that she beat me and my siblings with belts, cords and hangers. Sometimes she put duct tape over my mouth... that's when I learned not to cry, because if I did, I couldn't breathe." There's more, and worse...

It's impossible to cover all the wrenching concerns we hold in our broken hearts - the racist MAGA mob that stormed the US Capitol with hate in their hearts and weapons in hand; the social sins causing "three quarters of a billion people to slowly starve in Yemen, and the 1-2 billion who won't get enough food to fully function as human beings" because of a devastating war supported by US arms sales; and the continuing warnings by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, their "Doomsday Clock" fixed, again in 2021, at 100 seconds to midnight.

They cite the instability of the current state of the world as the **Winter-Spring 2021**

reason, noting: the intensification of the climate crisis; the needless Covid-19 deaths: the accelerating nuclear programs in multiple countries; the potential for the world to "stumble" into nuclear war; and the "continuing corruption of the information ecosphere on which democracy and public decision-making depend." (<https://thebulletin.org/>)

We are a divided, wounded people with an uncertain future. We need transformation and a dream big enough to believe in the Oneness that God offers. We need new words to build a language that feeds the dream. We need to embrace the Love that holds us as we move toward the dream's vision. Recently, as I noted the harsh battle words of political rhetoric in the videos shown at the impeachment hearings, I longed for calm, and the ability to talk across the barriers of party and prejudice: a baby step toward reconciliation. I thought of the masks we wear - Covid or not - distanced from one another's humanity.

Then, a miracle happened: I listened to the beautiful song, "There Is a Balm in Gilead," the African American spiritual written by Harry Thacker Burleigh and sung by Abraham Boyd at Riverside Church, two years ago. Its simple, glorious evocation of the "balm" available to us broke my heart... but renewed my hope in the "impossible dream" that "all may be one." Listen, please, as we enter into Lent, walking our way from death into life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQqHuJraEHg>

-Pat Ferrone is co-coordinator, with Fr. Rocco Puopolo, of the Pax Christi MA board of directors.

Sue Malone...

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Parish in Westborough, the first of its kind in the Worcester diocese.

Sue is well-known and respected in her local community for her passion for peace. She was arrested, jailed, and tried for protesting the making of nuclear weapons at the GTE facility in Westborough. Throughout the years, Sue has held countless signs on the Westborough rotary, protesting every war since Vietnam, nuclear weapons, racism, the death penalty, the abuse of immigrants and refugees, and the pipeline at Standing Rock, just to name a few.

In 2013, when the inmates at MCI Shirley wanted to form a Pax Christi chapter, it was not surprising that they sent a letter to Sue seeking her help and guidance. Who better to ask for help in going through all the red tape necessary to make their hope a reality? Six years later, the Pax Christi chapter at MCI Shirley is thriving thanks to the foundational work of Sue and the faithful commitment of Charlotte and Roger Stanley. It is the first such Pax Christi group in the country.

For these reasons and so many more, we give this Lifetime Achievement Award to you, Sue, with our profound gratitude for all you have done and continue to do daily in the pursuit of Jesus' dream of a peaceful world!!!

-Irene Desharnais is a Pax Christi MA board member from Jamaica Plain.

Sue's obituary can be read here: <https://www.westboroughfuneralhome.com/obituary/Dorothy-Malone>

Pax Christi MA Gathers State Peace & Justice Advocates

By Philip J. Harak

As our first Zoom planning meeting with peace and justice workers across Massachusetts was ending on January 30, 2021, participants exchanged gratitude and a desire to continue nurturing our nascent alliance. The following groups sent representatives to that meeting: Traprock Center for Peace and Justice; Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility; Christian Peacemaker Teams; Agape Community; A Faith That Does Justice; The Resistance Center; Mass Peace Action; American Friends Service Committee; Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence; The Peace Pagoda.



(cpt.org)

There were seven other organizations that indicated a desire to attend that meeting but did not. What brought us all together?

Last Spring, our board co-chairs, Fr. Rocco Puopolo and Pat Ferrone, suggested that PCMA could use the upcoming 40th anniversary (2023) of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, *The Challenge of Peace*, as the basis for all the peace and justice groups in the state to gather. Brian Ashmankas, Nancy Carapezza, Charles Gobron, and I joined our co-chairs as a

committee to enact that idea. We have met many times via video conferences. We started by clarifying what we hoped to achieve in such a gathering. We enlisted the support of our membership across the state in compiling a list of about 40 peace and justice groups.

We composed an invitational letter to the lead members of those organizations, in which we introduced ourselves as people trying to follow the methods of our nonviolent Jesus in addressing injustices. We shared some of the key actions PCMA continues to take. But we also clearly indicated that we sincerely wanted to listen and learn from each of the groups and hoped to formulate a common agenda for a potential future gathering. We thought we could “feed each other” and hoped that a larger political mass of activists could attain more rapid change to address the rather pressing issues we all face.

At the conclusion of our January Zoom meeting, participants agreed that the next step was for each attendee to inform their respective organizations of our discussion. Representatives thought it too soon to decide if we should all meet for a formal state gathering. Instead, we set another meeting for April 24 to share the intragroup discussions and to determine what, if any, shared actions we may take. PCMA hopes that all the groups will choose to meet, perhaps as early as this fall.

Our committee met shortly afterwards and reviewed and discussed several questions and concerns. We then composed a follow-up email to all interested groups and offered our questions and concerns as potential group discussion points. The email also

reiterated predominant themes of our initial Zoom meeting, including: addressing nuclear disarmament and weapons elimination; climate change; and transforming racist and sexist systems. This essential question emerged: what are the moral and political imperatives needed to respond to the immediate and stark choices humanity faces--not merely between justice and injustice, but between existence and non-existence?



(amazon.ca)

We invite our readers to share with us any information they think helpful in furthering our efforts.

-Phil Harak is a Pax Christi MA board member from Southampton.

Grants from PCMA to Local PC Groups

Local groups may apply for grants of up to \$250 to support projects which are in keeping with Pax Christi's mission by contacting PCMA treasurer Charles Gobron for an application form: 6 Bolser Avenue, Natick, MA 01760; or cgobron@aol.com

Roses in December

By Jane Morrissey, SSJ

[This was Sr. Jane's contribution to the Pax Christi Western MA group's reflection in December 2020 on two 40th anniversaries that month on the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. -Ed.]

I opened my eyes early on the morning of Dorothy Day's funeral, December 2, 1980. She was my heroine, someone who touched my fascination with Eugene O'Neill and "The Hound of Heaven" and Greenwich Village and love for the poor on the lower East Side, and I was going to New York with friends to pray for her. Kneeling at her casket, I saw her in person for the first time. Since I'd left the Big Apple to enter the Sisters of Saint Joseph, I'd returned to the neighborhood and her house there and seen countless beloved poor and staff and volunteers but never Dorothy. There she lay in a plain dress doubtless snatched from donations surrounded by love.

At home two days later, I saw on TV a faraway scene that would become too painfully familiar, the field in El Salvador where the bodies of four American churchwomen were found assassinated (on December 2), one of them named Dorothy. Three were Sisters, like me, the other a laywoman like the people teaching with me at the Elms and volunteering in my poor Latino parish and neighborhood. They died brutalized like the thousands of their poor neighbors and parishioners. What might I do? Within a few years I visited Latin America to understand the plight and language of the poor.

Ten years later, after assassinations throughout the Americas south of us, I went to a memorial service for Jeanne, Dorothy, Maura, and

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Ita in Baltimore at a 4H Camp. We prayed. Scrunched and cold in a tent, I wrote a poem.

Recently I found it in the box in my bedroom. I wrote it for the gardener whose wife and daughter had served the Jesuits who transformed the University of San Salvador into the country's central force and voice for the persecuted poor. Six of them were murdered with their housekeeper and her fourteen-year-old daughter. The father, their gardener, survived.



Obdulio Ramos in his memorial rose garden (fr-fr.facebook.com)

After his wife and daughter were brutally murdered with six Jesuits at Central American University in San Salvador, Obdulio Ramos transformed their graveyard into a rose garden.

An Ode for Obdulio

In the swirling of the stars
is the screaming of a siren,
and the siren's name is silence,
and her scream is silence too,

but the prophet can hear it,
pluck the heartstring of this planet,
take the pulse of the people,
especially the poor,

and the poet writes the lyrics
that rouse the sleeping giant
from the stupor of consumption
to the heartbeat of the Earth

for the farthest angels' dancing
moves the planet toward the
daybreak
of two-thousand suffering servants
who are really only One

and the chant to which they're
dancing
is so peaceful no one hears it
'til one Salvadoran gardener
sheds the single tear

that makes the well spill sideways
in a parting of the waters
that transforms his bloodied garden
into one flaming rose.

*-Jane Morrissey SSJ of Springfield
is a co-founder of Pax Christi MA.*

Holy Cross Pax Christi Update

By Marty Kelly

The experience of Pax Christi at Holy Cross during fall 2020 was characterized by growth, community, and generosity. Led by a core group of committed students, Pax Christi witnessed unprecedented numbers of students drawn to the bi-weekly meetings.



There was clearly a hunger for an inclusive and welcoming community that invited real dialogue on issues of justice, with Zoom meetings drawing between 20 and 30 students. Among the topics presented and discussed were mass incarceration, voting rights, domestic violence, immigration, and environmental sustainability (in response to the California wildfires).

To conclude the semester, and aware of the increased need during this time, Pax Christi raised well over \$1,000 to support Catholic

Charities with their Christmas efforts. This annual tradition we call “Pax-mas” was certainly boosted this year through an offer



made by Connor McNerney (on our executive board), to shave his head if we reached our goal (we did, and he did! -see photos above, both courtesy of Marty Kelly).

-Marty Kelly is Associate Chaplain & Director of Service and Social Justice Programs at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

Book Reviews

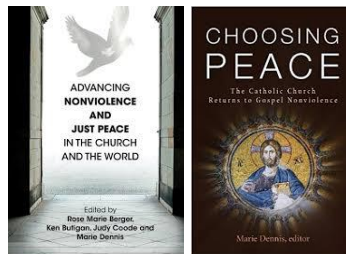
[Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World](#), by the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (Pax Christi International, 2020)
By *Mike Moran*

This volume resulted from the second of two recent conferences on nonviolence co-sponsored in Rome by Pax Christi International and the Vatican. Entitled “Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace” and held in April 2019, it followed up the April 2016 gathering “Nonviolence and Just Peace.” Each event drew 75-80 Catholic clergy and laypeople from throughout the world.

“Path of Nonviolence” attendees reviewed three years of applied research by the Catholic

Nonviolence Initiative, which PCI launched after the earlier conference. These presentations, documenting the gospel roots of nonviolence and its actual use to resolve current and past conflicts around the world, are reprinted, often with updates or revisions, in the present book.

I was particularly moved and impressed by the leadership of women like Elizabeth Kanini Kimau in Kenya, Sarah Thompson Nahar of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Colombia, and Myla Leguro in the Philippines, whose productive commitment to nonviolent direct action could inspire Pope Francis to write an encyclical on the centrality of gospel nonviolence to the Catholic Church in the 21st century.



[Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence](#), edited by Marie Dennis (Orbis Books, 2018)
By *Mike Moran*

This book contains edited and updated versions of papers written for or documenting presentations at the first, “Nonviolence and Just Peace,” of two recent conferences on nonviolence held in Rome, this one in April 2016, which were co-sponsored by Pax Christi International and the Vatican.

Notable contributions include these chapters: Terrence J. Rynne’s “Jesus and Nonviolence: Scriptural Evidence;” Maria J. Stephan’s “Active Nonviolence:

An Effective Political Tool;” and PCMA Peacemaker Award recipient and Boston College theology professor Lisa Sowle Cahill’s “Traditional Catholic Thought on Nonviolence.”

This volume also includes both the 2016 conference’s final document, “An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence,” and Pope Francis’s “World Day of Peace Message 2017 – Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace,” which it inspired.

[Praise Be Peace: Psalms of Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of War and Climate Change](#), by John Dear (Twenty-Third Publications, 2020)
By *Bill Toller*

A year ago, I had the great privilege of reading this marvelous new book by my good friend, John Dear, and I was so moved by it that I immediately called John in California and asked him to come to Springfield College as part of his upcoming book tour. After several phone calls and emails, we arrived at an April 27th date and then, in mid-March, the country and the rest of the world shut down. When it reopens, we hope to reschedule and have John speak to students and staff at the college, our Campaign Nonviolence and JustFaith Communities, and the many Pax Christi members who reside in Western Massachusetts.

John has written over 30 books on nonviolence and peacemaking and just left Campaign Nonviolence to form a new venture-the Beatitudes Center for the Nonviolent Jesus-where he continues his faithful commitment to teach, write, and invite others to meet the nonviolent Jesus. This book is an excellent way to meet the

nonviolent Jesus in prayer, reflection, and through John's own personal stories that enrich each of the more than forty psalms he unpacks in this beautiful volume.

I took one of the psalms each day that John writes about, read and reflected upon it, and incorporated each reading into my daily prayer routine during the season of Lent. With Lent 2021 now underway, I would highly recommend this volume as a way of deepening one's prayer life and encountering the nonviolent Jesus daily this Lent. There is a wonderful study guide at the end of the book that is suitable for small group study and individual reflection.

John quotes Dorothy Day in his introduction, "Strange how repetition, reading the psalms each day, instead of becoming stale and repetitious, becomes even fresher: verses stand out, and a light glows on what was obscure and hidden. There is an increase in understanding." John Dear's latest book brings all of us to that deeper place where we meet the nonviolent Jesus and are encouraged, through this encounter, to carry on our work as peacemakers. Thank you, John!



[True Commitments: A Memoir](#), by Michael True (Haley's, 2020)
by Jane Morrissey, SSJ

Don't miss it! If you knew Mike, you'll grin while astonished that he didn't tell you some of his secrets. If you didn't know Mike, don't miss this last best chance to shake the hand which wrote this

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engaging story. You'll know that there is even more to it than meets the eye or makes you laugh or just want to read it over again.

You'll know genetically where he came from. After my entry into the book, I spent the night dreaming of the museum of his ancestors. You'll know where and what he studied and how he got from ROTC to protests here, there, and everywhere, literally trotting the globe. Though we know more about the transparent life he lived here in Massachusetts, you'll have fun living it again in his company. You'll be amazed at how he was the parent, peacekeeper, poet, friend of the famous and infamous, teacher of nonviolence to the genius and the common folk, just as he was truly born to be.

You'll wander the earth with him and his beloved Mary Pat and his family. You'll hear his voice, quickening your conscience, challenging your faith, and making your own commitments truer and deeper than you thought they already were. You'll traverse the map of his life from here to Korea and India, meet the famous, learn more about the infamous, and wrestle with the truths within and beyond what faith and *satyagraha* cost. Last but not least, I humbly make one suggestion: read the True children's reflections on Dad first. They catch his dogged, determined humanity and humor. The memoir is a page-turner. You can almost watch Mike with his family watching you read it.

-Mike is editor of this newsletter.
-Deacon Bill Toller of Springfield won the Pax Christi MA 2017 Peacemaker Award.
-Sr. Jane is a PCMA co-founder.

A Wealth of Covid-Era Webinars

By Mike Moran

While the Covid-19 pandemic has kept us from gathering in person over the past year, it also produced many webinars and other virtual events that brought us together in ways we could never have anticipated. Here are highlights from two of them which especially inspired me in recent months. They're available for free viewing at the links below.

"Finding Hope in Turbulent Times," featuring Kathy Kelly, Sarah Ball, Jim and Nancy Forest, presented by the Coalition for Peace Action (Princeton, NJ), February 20, 2021:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?emci=051f0908-4475-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&emdi=447cc17b-5275-eb11-9889-00155d43c992&ceid=284428&v=9KF1KAFV9fo&feature=youtu.be>

Longtime American-born peace activist Jim Forest was to host this event, but while he recovered from a hospitalization several days earlier, his wife Nancy delivered his opening remarks from their home in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, where they've lived for 30 years.



Jim and Nancy Forest
(jimandnancyforest.com)

From working with them in the 1960s (and later writing distinguished biographies of both), Forest recalled Dorothy Day's

deep sense of hope, quoting Dostoyevsky, that “beauty will save the world” and Thomas Merton’s advice in his “Letter to a Young Activist” (Forest – “the most helpful letter I ever received”) to hope in God for success in his peace work but to stay grounded in “the reality of personal relationships.”

He then offered the statement “Keep thy mind in hell and despair not” by St. Silouan the Athonite, an Orthodox monk, as a reminder of our humility and hope in God’s infinite mercy.

Chicago-based Kathy Kelly, whose many years of peace activism have taken her to Iraq and Afghanistan, next showed an Orthodox icon of “The Harrowing of Hell” to affirm that just as resurrection followed Christ’s descent into Hell, so “death won’t have the final word.”

Sarah Ball, a younger activist, finds hope in the arts, from Tintoretto’s painting “Christ at the Sea of Galilee” to Fr. Zossima’s belief in hope reached through “the experience of active love” in Dostoyevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*.

“Is Nonviolent Policing Possible?,” featuring Charles Alphin, Sr., presented by the Center for Nonviolent Solutions (Worcester), February 24, 2021: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFNhB_1DeRU

When was the last time you heard a police officer say of a convicted criminal that he reformed his life because “he knew we loved him?” For me the answer was never, until I heard these words from Mr. Alphin in this powerful webinar.

After 26 years as a police officer,

mainly in his native St. Louis, MO, and motivated by a chance encounter (which “changed my life,” he said) with Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., a colleague of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Alphin moved to Atlanta, GA, where he began teaching Kingian nonviolence to police departments throughout and beyond the U.S.



(nonviolentsolutions.org)

Finding “threads of truth” by listening to all parties in a conflict, he believes, and practicing conflict “management by moving around” in the communities they serve helps police officers win the trust of each other and the public. Responding to “bad behavior” by looking instead for the “spark of divinity” in all people helps to “win them over” rather than “win over them” and improves police accountability.

Answering many questions during a lengthy Q&A session, Alphin gave examples of how he’s used humor to de-escalate conflict situations, enlisted “third party” allies to reach win-win solutions, and avoided using guns even when he’s carried them. He cited ongoing training programs in Kingian nonviolence by many police departments which help officers learn the culture of their communities, focus on the redemptive potential of individuals, and serve as “guardians,” not “warriors.”

By the time host Claire Schaeffer-

Duffy ended the event after almost two hours, attendees from as far away as Roanoke, VA, and Kansas City, MO, were clamoring for Alphin to work with their local police (he was more than willing).

Agape’s Virtual St. Francis Day 2020

By Mike Moran

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, almost 100 people from several states gathered via Zoom for the Agape Community’s 31st annual and first ever virtual St. Francis Day, focusing on the theme “Becoming Antiracist to Build the Beloved Community during Covid-19 and the 2020 Election.”

The two morning keynote speakers were Rev. Jonathan Betts Fields, Youth Pastor at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, MI, and Sr. Melinda Pellerin, SSJ, Pastoral Minister at Holy Name Parish in Springfield, MA. Both eloquently addressed how their backgrounds as Americans of color enrich their ministries to multiracial communities.



Sr. Melinda Pellerin (iobserve.org)

Rev. Betts reminded us that while we’re all “imperfect,” we also “have the power to love the hell out of each other.” Sr. Melinda reminded us of our duty to make “good trouble” and sang a soul-stirring “Lift Every Voice and

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Pax Christi Spring Retreat



Saturday April 17, 2021
Retreat on Zoom

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

“Building Emotional and Spiritual Resilience”

In the face of converging social and ecological crises, how do we maintain courage and hope? What spiritual practices and perspectives sustain us as we struggle to protect the web of life and to create a more just society? Through a mix of presentations and small group conversations, this morning retreat will explore a framework for the heart to help us become compassionate, prophetic leaders who are willing and able to take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires.

Co-sponsored by the

Agape Community



The Boston Catholic
Climate Movement

Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is an Episcopal priest, author, and retreat leader who serves as Missioner for Creation Care for both the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and Mass. Conference, United Church of Christ. Rev. Margaret offers encouragement and guidance on creation care topics through articles, sermons and more on her website, www.RevivingCreation.org, which she calls a place "to rest and reflect, to learn and find encouragement."

Registration Form

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____ (you will receive the Zoom link via email)

Registration is required but free.

I would like to be a Retreat Sponsor and will donate \$ _____ to help defray the cost of the Retreat.

Mail Registration (and check if sponsoring, made out to “Pax Christi MA”) to:

Charles Gobron, 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760

For information: paxchristima@gmail.com

www.paxchristima.org

www.agapecommunity.org

www.catholicclimatemovement.global/chapters/boston

2021 Pax Christi Massachusetts Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2021

This award is given to an outstanding peacemaker who embodies the ideals of Pax Christi. She or he need not be a member of Pax Christi and may be a person as young as 16, or older. Nominations may be submitted by PC-MA members, teachers, campus ministers, parish pastoral leaders, youth ministers, family members or friends who have been inspired by the nominee.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2021.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email to: moran3@comcast.net)

Nominee's name/s _____
School, if applicable _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Social justice & peacemaking activities, volunteer involvement, etc. (attach, as needed)
Your name _____ Relationship to nominee _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

2021 Pax Christi Massachusetts John Leary Youth Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2021

This award is given to an outstanding young peacemaker who embodies the ideals of Pax Christi, as John Leary lived them. John was a Harvard University graduate who worked with PC Massachusetts co-founder Gordon Zahn at the Pax Christi Center on Conscience and War in Cambridge and died at age 24 while jogging to Haley House, a Catholic Worker House in Boston, during the summer of 1982.

Nominees for the John Leary Award need not be members of Pax Christi but should be no older than 24. Nominations may be submitted by PC-MA members, teachers, campus ministers, parish pastoral leaders, youth ministers, family members or friends who have been inspired by the nominee.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2021.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email to: moran3@comcast.net)

Nominee's name/s _____
School, if applicable _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Social justice & peacemaking activities, volunteer involvement, etc. (attach, as needed)
Your name _____ Relationship to nominee _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Agape's Francis...

Continued from page 8

Sing," often called the "Black national anthem."

In a follow-up panel discussion, Agape co-founders Steve and Nancy James spoke of how they've used their "white privilege" as medical missionaries in Haiti for 35 years. Lifelong Agape Community member Jeanelle Wheeler spoke of using hers as a middle school teacher in Providence, RI, through the "reality pedagogy [of] meeting [her students] where they are [and] walking into each other's spaces."

Afternoon breakout sessions touched on opportunities for closer personal contacts across racial and ethnic lines, which were reinforced throughout the day, from the opening acknowledgement by Agape co-founders and hosts Brayton and Suzanne Belote Shanley of the "sacred Nipmuck land" they live on, to Brayton's afternoon prayer "let's stay together," to an evening open mic.

Pax Christi MA Assembly 2020

By Mike Moran

Almost 50 attendees joined the first ever virtual (thanks to the Covid pandemic) Pax Christi MA annual fall Assembly on Saturday, October 10, 2020. The keynote speaker was Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director

of Pax Christi USA, who spoke from his home in St. Louis, MO, on the topic, "Resilience and Hope in a Time of Chaos: Pax Christi Engaged!"

Recalling similar "chaos" when he first joined the PCUSA staff just before 9/11 in 2001, Johnny noted the many challenges that had marked his first year as Executive Director, including Covid, the police killings of George Floyd and other African Americans, and threats of violence around the upcoming 2020 election.



Zooming (paxchristima.org)

But he also noted the resilience of Pax Christi, from its roots in reconciliation after World War II to the current efforts of its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative to reorient Church leadership around the gospel nonviolence of Jesus. And he found hope in PCUSA's strong support for the Black Lives Matter movement, in our strong "grassroots" network, and in our grounding in the Resurrection.

He answered questions on racism in the American Church (we have a long way to go), on attracting more young people to our ranks ("give them space" and help them "build bridges" with the wisdom of older colleagues, as he experienced a generation ago), and the just war theory (rejected, with the

death penalty, by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*), noting that as a "core charism" nonviolence could become a "tipping point" for the Catholic Church.

At the annual Pax Christi MA business meeting after the keynote, PCMA co-coordinator Pat Ferrone presented the 2020 Peacemaker Award to Fr. Steve Josoma, pastor of her own St. Susanna's Parish in Dedham, who accepted it, with typical grace and modesty, on behalf of the parish Pax Christi group. All current PCMA board members and officers were re-elected for another year.

Samantha Leuschner of the Agape Community offered Thich Nhat Hanh's "Our True Heritage" as a closing prayer, which reminded us to "cherish this very moment, let go of the stream of distress and embrace life fully in your arms."

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2020-2021

<u>Co-Coordinator:</u> Pat Ferrone 238 Harris Avenue Needham MA 02492 781-752-9722 patferrone@gmail.org	<u>Secretary:</u> Jeanne Allen 10 Sutton Place Easthampton MA 01027 413-270-5880 (email page 12)
<u>Treasurer:</u> Charles Gobron 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760 774-270-2442 cgobron@aol.com	<u>Newsletter Editor:</u> Mike Moran 135 Shearer Street Palmer, MA 01069 413-283-5716 (email page 12)
<u>OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:</u> Brian Ashmankas (Douglas); Sr.Linda Bessom (Somerville); Nancy Carapezza (Wayland); Irene Desharnais (Jamaica Plain); Phil Harak (Southampton); Sally Markey (Springfield); Rose Morrissey (Westborough); Father Rocco Puopolo, s.x. (Holliston), Co-Coordinator (see contact info under Fatima on page 12).	
<u>QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS</u> are held virtually at 10 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next two meetings will be held on March 13 and June 12, 2021.	

Local Groups

Berkshire P.C.

Carolyn Zabloutny
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, SNDdeN
(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 & Francoise 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
(202) 997-8049
rndpsx@hotmail.com
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 4:00 PM
Upper Room

Holy Cross College P.C.

1 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
sheilamatthews@aol.com

Mtgs 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Chapel of Reconciliation

Rhode Island P.C.

Margo Murphy
(401) 861-6988
margomurph@aol.com
Madeline Labriola
(845) 691-8015
mlabriola@mac.com
St. Peter's Church
Lower level
350 Fair Street
Warwick, RI 02888
Mtgs last Sunday, 6:00 PM

St. John's Prep P.C.

St. John's Preparatory School
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.

Pat Ferrone
262 Needham Street
Dedham, MA 02026
781-752-9722
parferrone@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Western Mass P.C.

Jeanne Allen
10 Sutton Place
Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 270-5880
jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 7:00 PM
Elms College, Chicopee

*(NOTE: Most meetings of all
groups are virtual during Covid)*

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, or if you would like to be added to a list of Pax Christi "friends" and receive current messages from the Board, please email changes or additions to Mike Moran: moran3@comcast.net

Pax Christi Massachusetts
6 Bolser Avenue
Natick, MA 01760
paxchristima@gmail.com

www.paxchristima.org