

Pax Christi Massachusetts Newsletter



Violence Ends Where Love Begins

Volume 30, Number 1, Summer-Fall 2023

Enacting the Peace of Christ through Prayer-Study-Action

By Philip Harak

The late Christian activist and lifelong public witness to the nonviolent Jesus, Daniel Berrigan, SJ, once said that all Christians should make their life story fit into Jesus' life story. Our story, our lifelong journey, must include prayerful adherence to Jesus' clear words and acts of nonviolent love of all, expressed through continual compassion, unlimited mercy and forgiveness, and love of all enemies. But we must also acknowledge that to speak and act in those ways are directly counter to our culture's deafening cries for endless and greater division, hatred, and violence. In fact, aiding and comforting enemies of our nation warrants the death penalty, according to our Constitution.

Given that budgetary expenditures reflect what is deemed necessary, should a Christian question that our government will be spending more than *100 million dollars every hour* of the day next year on the military, not including the proposed trillions to upgrade our nuclear weapons arsenal? Hating and preparing to kill our enemies is in direct opposition to Jesus' command to love our enemies.

Both cannot exist at the same time. Which course of action is right?

Nobel Prize winning composer Bob Dylan once wrote that we all need to serve somebody. Given that we are encouraged to disregard, hate, and dehumanize our enemies and even receive approbation for doing so, it is understandable if today's Christian is confused about serving a nonviolent Jesus instead. At a minimum, each Christian should make a conscious and prayerful



PCMA members welcome Golden Rule to Boston (photo, Peter Metz)

decision as to whom or what we serve. Let us reflect now on choosing to act like Jesus did, and be prayerful, creatively active advocates for peace in the face of evil and conflict.

Our movement, Pax Christi, started shortly after the horrors of the second World War through the joint efforts of a clergyman and lay

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Pax Christi Follows the "Golden Rule"

By Peter Metz

"Sailing Again for a Nuclear-Free World", the historic sailboat Golden Rule arrived in Boston Harbor at precisely noon on Sunday, June 18th, Father's Day, to a grand welcome arranged by Mass Peace Action, Pax Christi Massachusetts (supported by Pax Christi members from all over Greater Boston), and several other civic organizations.

Originally sailed by four Quakers in 1958 to try blocking nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, the Golden Rule, a 39-foot, two-masted ketch, set out to enter the Marshall Islands nuclear test area. Nominally unsuccessful (the boat was captured by the US Coast Guard, and the crew were jailed), it helped trigger such a continuing protest that 5 years later President Kennedy declared a moratorium on atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, which later became a near worldwide prohibition on all nuclear weapons testing.

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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.

Enacting the Peace..

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woman who were citizens of warring nations. We at Pax Christi MA, a chapter of 50-year-old Pax Christi USA, began our collective peace work over thirty years ago. Pax Christi acts within the Catholic Church, though we are not in agreement with the Church's endorsement of Just War Theory because it is something that Jesus never taught and its endorsement has led to the suffering and death of countless people, as well as the devastation of nature.

Instead, we seek to enact, however imperfectly, what our name proclaims: The Peace of Christ. Though curiously muted in many parish sermons, we try to enact Pope Francis' direction to "make nonviolence our way of life." We embrace the value of community and, like Jesus, invite all to our peacemaking community. We believe that we are enriched, not threatened, by diverse gifts.

Pax Christi espouses the three tenets of prayer, study, and action. Our prayerful communication with God can of course be personal and communal. A wonderful way to pray is to carefully read and immerse ourselves into the Scriptures. We invite the Holy Spirit of Truth to help us discern and understand. Our first work in our nonviolent journey is a conversion of our heart and mind.

Carefully studying Jesus' story, what he termed the fulfillment of the Scriptures, we notice that he spent his public life healing all who came to him, including "enemies" of the Jews. He even healed the military oppressor's servant and the ear of the guard

arresting him. And during perhaps the greatest crime humanity ever committed, Jesus asked his Father to forgive his murderers. We are reminded that Jesus shows us the way, again and again, to living a nonviolent and loving life, day to day, even in the most difficult circumstances. His life story of love excluded no one.

Study requires diligence and legitimate, accurate sources of information. In the face of facts, we often must "unlearn" things taught or believed. We must begin with the truth—and nonviolent tenet—that our opponents and enemies are humans, equally loved by the God of all. Those with opposing views must not be made objects of derision, because objectifying another is the start of doing violence to that other.



Mairead Maguire (thetimes.co.uk)

Good research helps us to make more informed decisions. And for the follower of Jesus, those decisions must never intend diminishment or harm. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire noted that violent actions were a *choice* that individuals and governments make; violence is not some instinct we are slaves to enact. But she lamented that "If we do not teach nonviolence in our educational systems and in our religious institutions, how can we make the choice" of nonviolence?

Pax Christi MA highly values the efficacy of a broad education. We espouse an educational enterprise that helps people of all ages understand what Jesus actually taught and did, and what the early Church did for 300 years, until Constantine. We strongly advocate for a peace and justice program, and more, for Pax Christi chapters, in all of the Catholic secondary and post-secondary schools in MA. Since most allow for Junior ROTC and ROTC chapters, a rounded, catholic education requires an alternate, faithful voice to balance the dominating just warrior's.

Research and a fuller education will also uncover historical figures who have been left out of the mainstream history books, or whose stories were minimized or misrepresented. The diligent will discover Howard Zinn's *People's History of the United States*, James Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, and founding Pax Christi MA educator Mike True's books, including *To Construct Peace: 30 More Justice Seekers and Peace Makers*. We learn that in addition to the giants like Gandhi and King, there are many "ordinary" people who heroically and courageously act in concert with the tenets of nonviolent conflict resolution. Several were Christians committed to Jesus's ways.

Those committed activists then and now are people who act according to various motives. Students in my peace studies classes were always shocked to learn from Gene Sharp's groundbreaking research into historical nonviolent resistance that there are 198 effective alternatives to violence.

They would invariably ask why they did not learn of these in history or political science classes. I asked them to consider that those who rule with violence are really threatened by a “force more powerful” than violence.

But Christians follow Jesus’ nonviolent ways not primarily as a tactic. We do so because he commanded us to.

After his baptism, Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the desert. Fr. John Dear asserts that those three temptations were sourced in despair, doubt, and domination. Within each is sown the seed of violence. Like us, Jesus was tempted to bring about peace, love, and the Kingdom through the alluring and apparently effective means employed by Satan: division, hatred, and violence. We continue to see the fruits of each all around us. But Jesus consciously chose to complete his mission as the incarnate word of God by following the will of the Creator. By acting in opposition to him, we followers are saying that Jesus was wrong.

My late brother, G. Simon Harak, SJ, in writing about Peter’s betrayal of Jesus, asserted that “The sword serves only to shield a cowardice of the spirit. You cannot have a weapon in your hand, and Christ in your heart.” Unlearning the myth of a peaceful Empire, we can reflect today on the motto from the Roman Empire: Divide and Dominate. When we choose violence and domination in this world, we divide ourselves from Jesus’s ways, and we become dominated by the solipsistic and evil force that is violence. Satanic means, indeed.

Let us continue to pray, study, and act as individuals committed to Christ’s means. Frequently

arrested and jailed, Dan Berrigan once stated, “It is not that we [Christians] are political, we are public.” Consider acting publicly with us. Let us combine or deepen our efforts, together with PCMA.

-Dr. Phil Harak is co-coordinator, with Fr. Rocco Puopolo, of PCMA.

The “Golden Rule”

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Lost to the world for nearly 60 years, Golden Rule was resurrected by Veterans for Peace, in a five-year effort, from an abandoned hulk to its original condition to sail again, now for the cause of eliminating all nuclear



Boston Seaport District greeting (photo, Peter Metz)

weapons. Last summer, Golden Rule was brought across land from its California home port to Minneapolis to sail via the Mississippi, the Gulf, and up the east coast, stopping at every possible port to bring its message to the rest of the United States. Everywhere it was welcomed and hosted by local peace and religious organizations of all faiths.

Arriving in Boston, Golden Rule and its crew were greeted by Harvard’s Quaker chaplain, John Bach, blessed by Fr. Steve Josoma, pastor of St. Susanna church in Dedham and well-known to Pax Christi members for hosting many PC meetings, and celebrated by a brass band and enthusiastic crowd, which included nearly a dozen Pax

Christi members. After this Seaport District [welcome](#), its three days in Boston included a demonstration march along the waterfront, a rally with speakers and music in Columbus Park, a Zoom [broadcast](#) from the Community Church of Boston, an extensive [interview](#) on WGBH’s Greater Boston, and a [rally for anti-nuclear legislation](#) on the Common in front of the State House.

The result was to bring together many peace advocates across the region in support of US leadership toward a world without nuclear weapons, imbuing us with a new spirit of determination.

After leaving Boston, Golden Rule visited ports in New Hampshire and Maine and then made its way via the Hudson River and Erie Canal to sail among US and Canadian ports on the Great Lakes. In its long wake it is leaving groups revitalized to do all they can to eliminate the most murderous and inhumane weapons ever conceived. We have all been enriched by its intrepid voyage.

Click [here](#) to follow and learn more about the Golden Rule.

-Peter Metz is a member of the Newton PC local group.



Elaine L'Etoile, Jane Griffin, and Linda Taylor (left to right), La Salette Shrine PC members, at the arrival of the Golden Rule in Providence, RI on June 12, 2023.

Engaging Young Catholics in Pax Christi

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

Over the past two years the Pax Christi Massachusetts board has attempted a number of initiatives inviting young people of our state to engage in the activities of Pax Christi. Two years ago our Spring Retreat, led by Sr. Jane Morrissey and Brian Ashmankas, was an interactive and intergenerational sharing of concerns and hopes in a divided and tense world, which included video sharings by many young people from St. John's Prep in Danvers, Newton Country Day School, St. Sebastian in Needham, and Elms College. Their insights and energy were impressive!

This successful inclusion of young people in our event prompted the board to further reach out to all Catholic campus ministry centers in the high schools and colleges of the state. There are 35 Catholic high schools and 9 Catholic colleges in Massachusetts, not to mention the many bona fide campus ministries in 30+ state and private colleges and universities. Fr. Rocco Puopolo and Dr. Phil Harak, coordinators of Pax Christi Massachusetts, reached out to 72 campus ministries at the beginning of 2023, inviting them to consider forming a Pax Christi group in their campus ministry centers.

Many schools and colleges teach Catholic social teachings and have service projects or mission trips. Our invitation for them to form Pax Christi groups takes them one step further by engaging them in a prayerful and long-term process making Catholic social teachings come alive, addressing challenging

issues in our society, and bringing them into a community of faithful peacemakers young and old who can mentor them.

Twenty-nine of those campus ministers were invited to a Zoom call on March 30th. Eight of them joined the call coordinated by Phil and Fr. Rocco. After a short presentation on Pax Christi came a fruitful discussion and sharing of the activities of the two existing Pax Christi school-based groups, as well as a discussion on forming more chapters in other schools. Phil and Fr. Rocco offered to guide and resource any of the groups that may wish to form a chapter. Five of the campus ministers expressed interest in starting a group in the fall. The group also accepted our invitation to a Zoom call once each semester to further the sharing and the discussion on Pax Christi on campus. Our next Zoom meeting will be at the end of October.

And what of Catholic students in public high schools? I was casually chatting about this initiative with a Catholic junior from Holliston High who works part time here at the shrine, and he asked what outreach there would be for students like him. My retort? Make it happen! This month a group of six high school sophomores and juniors will initiate a young people's Pax Christi group here at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine.

Keep these initiatives in your thoughts and prayers. If you know of any campus ministers or young people who may not know about this initiative and would benefit from it, have them contact me at frrocco@gmail.com. Wonderful things are happening for peace!

-Fr. Rocco is co-coordinator, with Dr. Phil Harak, of PCMA.

The Teaching Uses of "Oppenheimer"

By Mike Moran

On one hand, British director Christopher Nolan's blockbuster film "Oppenheimer" is a riveting gut-punch, with brilliant acting, especially by Cillian Murphy in the title role and Robert Downey, Jr. as his sometime adversary, Lewis Strauss, and a dramatically told story of how an international group of scientists, led by charismatic American physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, developed the first nuclear weapons in 1945 through the Manhattan Project.

On the other hand, the film gives short shrift to other aspects of the story, like the harm to generations of "Downwinders," not just in New



Mexico, where residents within fallout range of the "Trinity" test, the world's first nuclear explosion, were never directly warned of its potential harmful effects, but also at postwar test sites around the United States and various Pacific Islands, where similar risks were equally downplayed. Nor is the later exponential growth of the world's nuclear weapons arsenal and industry more than hinted at.

But from either perspective, many teachable moments in the film, including moral qualms about the bomb voiced by Manhattan Project scientists like Leo Szilard and,

eventually, Oppenheimer himself, offer antinuclear activists many opportunities for productive dialogue. New educational resources can foster deep discussion of the issues it raises.

On July 16, 2023, the 78th anniversary of the Trinity test, a coalition of organizations in New Mexico sponsored a two-hour "remembrance" of that event. Speakers included Santa Fe Archbishop John C. Wester, addressing his pastoral letter, "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace," and Tina Cordova, representing the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium. A recording of the program contains links to sponsoring organizations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EnpL0aDQ1E>

ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner, created the helpful fact sheet "Oppenheimer: what you need to know before watching:" https://www.icanw.org/oppenheimer_facts_myths_nuclear_weapons

And Back from the Brink, ICAN's American counterpart, assembled "Oppenheimer Film Resources:" <https://preventnuclearwar.org/oppenheimer/>

Wide public interest in the film may be fertile ground for new nuclear disarmament recruits.

-Mike is editor of this newsletter.

Book Reviews

Frank Fromherz & Suzanne Sattler, *No Guilty Bystander: The Extraordinary Life of Bishop Thomas Gumbleton* (Orbis Books, 2023); /// Drew Christiansen, SJ & Carole Sargent, editors, *Forbidden: Receiving Pope*

Francis's Condemnation of Nuclear Weapons (Georgetown University Press, 2023).
By Mike Moran

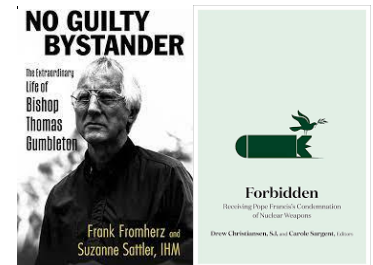
The portrait of retired Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit Thomas Gumbleton that emerges in this new biography, whose title riffs on Thomas Merton's *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, evoked for me the memory of a day when I drove him in 1979 from Bradley airport in Connecticut to a meeting in Worcester, MA - a humble servant eager to share his knowledge and build community with those around him wherever he's called..

Now 93 years old, the Detroit native is the sixth of 9 children who grew up with few material advantages but with a wealth of love and traditional Catholic education. Recognizing his vocation early, he was ordained Fr. Gumbleton in 1956. After Detroit Archbishop John Dearden noticed his leadership skills, Gumbleton spent several years of study in Rome during Vatican II and was ordained a Bishop in 1968.

His growing opposition through the 1960s to the Vietnam War led him to become a co-founder of Pax Christi USA in 1972. Soon after I met him, he was among the clergy who visited US hostages in Iran that Christmas. By 1983, his profile rose among US bishops when he took an active role in drafting "The Challenge of Peace," the USCCB's "peace pastoral."

In the late 1980s, his youngest brother, Dan, revealed that he was gay, leading Bishop Gumbleton into growing advocacy for equal treatment by the Church of LGBTQ Catholics. Still active in Pax Christi, he also deepened his commitment to antiracism work, becoming a popular pastor of an inner-city parish in Detroit.

Fromherz and Sattler capture both the personal and the public Tom Gumbleton, through many interviews and excerpts from his own writing. Their inspiring book should be required reading for not just Pax Christi members but all American Catholics.



Forbidden is a resourceful collection of essays by a wide range of authors about an issue that has concerned Bishop Gumbleton throughout his career: the need for nuclear disarmament. This book focuses mainly on the challenges Catholics face in bringing "Pope Francis's condemnation of nuclear weapons" into reality.

While written in an academic style, all 32 essays are easily accessible to the lay reader. Three that I found especially down to earth were two by Catholic University of America professor Maryann Cusimano Love ("Just Peace and Nuclear Disarmament" and "The Ethics of Nuclear Stewards") and one by Boston College professor (and PCMA 2019 Peacemaker awardee) Lisa Cahill ("The Conundrum of Deterrence: A Practical Christian Response"). Both authors offer much food for spiritual nourishment.

Lead editor Fr. Drew Christiansen, SJ, died shortly before publication, making the book a fitting tribute to this "innovative and diplomatic bridge-builder who advanced the global vision of a world free of nuclear weapons" (page xvi).

Zaporizhzhia Protection Project

By Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

Wildly ambitious is how some people might describe the Zaporizhzhia Protection Project. This innovative peace initiative seeks to engage unarmed civilians in the protection of Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which today sits on the frontlines of the war in Ukraine. Located in southeastern Ukraine, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) was once a source of local pride, generating one fifth of the country's energy needs. But asset became menace after Russian forces seized it in March 2022.

"The situation is extremely volatile," said Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during his June visit to the ZNPP. Last year, Grossi, a Catholic father of eight, brokered access to the power plant for IAEA monitors. While its six reactors remain in shutdown, its network of cooling systems has proven vulnerable to attack. For months, rotating teams of IAEA inspectors have braved missile strikes and landmines to inspect the ZNPP's power supply lines, cooling pools, and water channels, in an effort to avoid a war-related catastrophe with regional consequences.

The IAEA's efforts caught the imagination of Dr. John Reuwer, a retired ER doctor and board member of the international organization World Beyond War. Could teams of internationals skilled in unarmed civilian protection (UCP) amplify the IAEA's efforts? For months, Reuwer and a cohort of volunteers

trained for this purpose. The Zaporizhzhia Protection Project (ZPP) envisions at least a symbolic presence of a few dozen unarmed civilian protectors to accompany the IAEA monitors, or, better yet, hundreds to patrol the power plant and prevent damage. In April, the ZPP sent an exploratory team to Ukraine, of which I was a part. A second such team plans to travel there in September.



ZPP team members discuss project with pastor in Dnipro, April 2023 (photo, Claire Schaeffer-Duffy)

The project represents a novel application of UCP, a nonviolent tactic that has been in use for decades. The strategy is non-partisan, targeted, and, yes, wildly ambitious. "Pioneering" is my preferred adjective. Russian physicist Oleg Bodrov estimates the decades old ZNPP has 50 tons of plutonium stored onsite. An attack there, he says, would have the effect of a "dirty bomb," dispersing radiological material far and wide. In the face of such a threat to human life and ecosystems, peacemakers need to respond creatively and practically. The ZPP is trying to do just that.

For more on how to support ZPP (donations welcome), please visit: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/zap/>

-Claire is a Catholic Worker, and Program Director at the Center for Nonviolent Solutions, in Worcester.

Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons

By Linda Taylor

Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro, will host an evening program entitled "Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons," on **Thursday, September 28, at 7:00pm** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette, 947 Park Street, Attleboro. The guest speaker will be Peter Metz, a retired MIT-educated engineer who, motivated by his Catholic faith, works on social action initiatives, chief among them the creation of a world without nuclear weapons. The program is free and open to the public.

Mr. Metz's presentation will reference the 2022 pastoral letter from Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament," which Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine recently read and reflected on. The presentation will be followed by small group breakout sessions, and a large group share-out session (including time for questions).

-Linda is a LaSalette PC member.

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 asking PCMA treasurer Nancy Carapezza for an application form: Pax Christi MA, Good Shepherd Parish, 99 Main Street, Wayland, MA 01778; or npez@comcast.net

Volunteering at the Border in Phoenix

By Sr. Rita Raboin, SNDdeN

Sister Liane Deluc, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, an international Congregation of Sisters, and a small group of other SND's, arranged with the International Rescue Committee for Sisters to volunteer service with asylum seekers arriving in Phoenix. Sisters could sign up for the period of time they could offer. I recently made my fourth trip to Phoenix with Sr. Judi Beltz, from the Ipswich Community of our sisters on the North Shore.

Volunteers meet asylum seekers at the Welcome Center in Phoenix, a former school that has served hundreds of immigrants in the past five years. Volunteers of diverse ages, from young students to older folks who have the time and energy, contribute skills and an open, generous spirit.

People arrive from diverse countries, receive a warm welcome at the Center, a change of clothing, food, showers, and a decent place to sleep. They stay for maybe a day or two and move on to their families residing here or to their sponsors. They share their stories of challenge, along with their hopes for a better life here.

We are humbled by their courage and gratitude to arrive here safely. Their expressions of hope touch us as we continue to support them in their efforts to find peace and start again, to live their lives in a new space. It is a privilege to be part of this effort to receive them and encourage them as they embrace this new reality with its challenges: language, work, acceptance.

My gratitude goes to Sisters Liane and Meg Walsh for their welcome

and ongoing fidelity to this important ministry, as well as to Sister Judi Beltz who is a faithful companion in this endeavor.

-Sr. Rita is a Boston PC member.

The Crisis at Our Southern Border

By Deacon Bill Toller

In July I was part of a Maryknoll Mission trip to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico led by my good friend, Kevin McCarthy, who has led many trips with Maryknoll. There were 13 of us on this trip, some young, some older, from all over the country. While we each brought our unique ministry experiences to this powerful encounter, we were united in our concerns for our brothers and sisters we met throughout the week in shelters on both sides of the border, who are fleeing situations



Bill Toller (left front) and mission friends (photo Kevin McCarthy)

in their home countries that are truly beyond our imaginations as privileged Americans - extreme poverty, disease, climate emergencies, and violence that demand justice and compassion.

Each day was filled with presentations, encounters, and time for individual as well as group reflection. We heard about the root

causes of migration from Dr. Jesus de la Torre of the Hope Border Institute, an agency solely devoted to studying immigration trends, especially those among asylum seekers presenting themselves at the border. We learned that there is a system in place (with technology flaws) for those seeking asylum through using a cell phone app (CPB-1). We heard from border patrol agents who impressed me with their compassion and concern with those who are seeking a place to live safely and thrive, a basic right I think we can all agree on.

We heard from a nun in Juarez, Sister Betty Campbell, who has maintained a Catholic Worker Home there ("Casa Tabor") for over 50 years and who writes the names of those murdered in Juarez each year on a wall in her outside patio. We heard from lawyers, doctors, and psychologists who are responding to the overwhelming human and spiritual needs on our borders. The Jesuits, particularly Father Rafael Garcia of the Encuentro Project, are leading the way, with many comprehensive responses to this crisis.

One encounter I will never forget occurred at a shelter in El Paso our first night as we prepared a dinner for the twenty asylum seekers who were present there. We learned that most of the families seeking shelter were there three days or less as they connected with family and friends in other parts of the country. A member of our group bought bus tickets for one family in need so that they could meet family members in Utah; I will never forget the father of that family, who embraced our team member as we left with tears coming down his face. It was truly a spirit-filled encounter!

I am so grateful for my encounters with both asylum seekers and my

new community of immigration reformers that we formed in July. There is so much we can all do to encounter our brothers and sisters on our Southern borders.

*Learn more here:

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

www.maryknollogc.org

*Get involved here:

www.asylumsponsorshipproject.org

-Deacon Bill Toller, of Springfield, is a member of Western MA PC.

Pax Christi MA 2023 Retreat

By Jeanne Allen, PCMA Secretary

Although the sky was gray on April 22, the spirit of the Pax Christi MA retreat was sunny, as 31 people - Pax Christi stalwarts and interested parishioners - met “live” for a day of prayer and reflection, our first in four years.

Based on *Living in the Company of Jesus*, by our retreat leader and his (sadly) deceased brother Fr. Simon Harak, SJ, Philip Harak led us through modified Ignatian spiritual exercises throughout the day. Knowing that people learn and connect in different ways, he combined body work (being present to our bodies in a specific time and place), guided imagery, Scripture reading, journalling, Fr. Simon’s homilies, small group discussion, and larger group sharing, returning to Phil’s reflections, and more time to reflect and share. Zoom attendees (there were 13), shared on audio as well. We were all enriched by others’ insights and courage in opening up to our vulnerabilities.

The morning Scripture was Jesus walking on the stormy water and inviting Peter to join him. We live

in turbulent times, so this spoke to our living reality. In the afternoon, we dove into the parable of the Sower and the Seed for more insights into our spiritual lives.

Attendee comments ranged from two people who spoke about when they had been caught in bad weather at sea - “miracles do happen” - to reflections on the readings and exercises. “It’s an inside job; I particularly want to cultivate the earth within me” [Pat Ferrone]; “We have to cultivate the virtues; some are harder (for any of us) than others; perseverance; give it time to germinate” [Fr. Rocco Puopolo]; “I wrote my first dialogue with Jesus” [Bill Toller].



Retreatants with mass shootings banner (photo, Fr. Rocco Puopolo)

St. Thomas the Apostle’s pastor, Fr. Rick Turner, and staff made us welcome. Coffee hour treats and a simple, yet ample lunch gave us opportunities to share with those not in our small groups. Former co-coordinator Pat Ferrone’s current project of creating a banner mourning all the mass shootings in the United States this year was on display throughout the day. Regrettably, it was soon out of date due to continued tragic violence.

Phil and Simon’s book was available for purchase and author signing, with some attendees buying several to give to friends and family. The Diocese of Springfield’s “Real to Reel”

program filmed portions of the day and aired an impressive portrait of Pax Christi and the retreat on May 13. A companion commentary by Board member and newsletter editor Mike Moran was also posted in *The Observer* online:

<https://iobserve.org/2023/05/10/guest-commentary-my-experience-as-a-member-of-pax-christi/>

After a quick cleanup to restore the area to order, those who could joined the parish’s 4 PM Mass, with Mike giving brief background on Pax Christi. We were invited to stand with a portion of Pat’s banner, which stretched across the entire altar and up a side aisle after Mass. Some parishioners stopped to study it, with several visibly moved by the senseless loss of life.

The day benefitted from all the planning by Board members, especially treasurer Nancy Carapezza, and Mike Moran, liaison with his home parish. Joe Dziok’s IT expertise enhanced the day. An edited recording will be posted on the PCMA web site:

<https://paxchristima.org/>



Sr. Mary Caritas, SP, received a proclamation from City Council President Jesse Lederman on 100 years of peace work, Hiroshima Day event, Springfield, August 6. (photo, Sr. Annette McDermott)



Pax Christi Assembly *in person and via zoom*

October 28, 2023

Featuring Rev. Kevin C. Peterson

Renaming Faneuil Hall: the Role of Public Theology



Rev. Kevin C. Peterson is founder of the New Democracy Coalition and the Faneuil Hall Race + Reconciliation Project. He is an active journalist and community advocate who focuses on issues of race, politics and culture. Theology is the art of melding the God Experience, the Community Experience and our Personal Experiences into a way of understanding life as we live it now. Come join us as we theologize on ways and means of rooting out the racist past in many of our institutions!

**St. Susanna Parish Hall
262 Needham Street,
Dedham MA**

**Registration/Coffee at 8:30 am
Program 9:00 am to 3:30 pm**

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

Current Covid-19 precautions will be observed

Co-sponsored by 

Registration Form

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State _____ Phone/E-mail _____

Donation* \$40 at the door, \$35 if postmarked by October 21st (Lunch Included)

Student with ID Free, registration by October 21st suggested. (Lunch included)

For those attending via Zoom, it is free. Email paxchristima@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

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:

Pax Christi Massachusetts, Good Shepherd Parish, 99 Main Street, Wayland, MA 01778

*Scholarships available

www.paxchristima.org

For information: paxchristima@gmail.com

ANNUAL AGAPE FRANCIS DAY:

SAT. OCT. 7TH, 2023

10 AM – 4 PM

CONTEMPLATION, CONVERSATION AND COMMUNITY



Holy Cross Students at Quabbin Reservoir

Agape Community will animate reflection and periods of meditation on contemplative life and practice for peacemakers. Topics include:

- Power of Silence in a Media-driven world.
- Prayer and mindfulness to address the extremities of racism, war, and poverty and climate change.
- Faith as Contemplative Experience.

Please Bring your own lunch

Donations to Agape always needed and gratefully accepted.

RSVP by Oct. 1st by email: peace@agapecommunity.org

413-967-9369/www.agapecommunity.org

A Pax Christi-Agape Wedding

On August 12th, 2023, Samantha Leuschner wed Brian Ashmankas in a Catholic Mass presided over by Rev. Dr. Trish-Sullivan Vanni, a priest of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. Catholic nonviolence circles brought these two together. Sam has long been active with the Agape Community and a member of the mission council. Brian served for many years on both the Pax Christi USA National Council and our own state board. They met during the height of the pandemic when



Congratulations, Sam & Brian!

Brian invited "peripheral Catholics and Millennial Nones" to participate in an all-inclusive spiritual community via Zoom. It was through that community that they grew in their commitment to social justice, Gospel nonviolence, and began to see divine providence drawing them into partnership. Since their pairing, they have begun laying the groundwork for an intentional community focused on the spirituality of Gospel nonviolence, sustainability, and

eco- & social justice. They are grateful for the many friends and family who have been part of their journey and continue to be today. Brian and Sam can be reached at 48 Brown Street, Cherry Valley, MA 01611.

PCMA Board Candidates

Three PCMA members will stand for election to the board of directors at our fall assembly on October 28 (see page 9). Here are biographical introductions in their own (lightly edited) words:

Kathy Hubert, Walpole: I am a clinical social worker. I have worked with children who have experienced trauma, violence, and sexual abuse. I've attended St Susanna's Parish in Dedham over the past 10 years and been an active member of the Pax Christi Group there, focused on gun violence, nuclear issues, immigration, etc. With other members of St. Susanna's, I have helped out at the Catholic Worker House in Worcester, the House of Peace in Ipswich, and Agape. More recently, I have been part of the prison ministry from St Susanna's at the Dedham House of Correction.

Linda Taylor, North Attleboro: Linda Taylor has been a member of Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine for three years. She and her husband of 44 years, Tom, attend Transfiguration of the Lord Parish in their town of North Attleboro. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Linda was born in New Jersey, lived in Ohio, and graduated

from Ohio State University in 1978. She is retired and enjoys reading, fiber arts, and making music. She has a pretty good puppet collection but, sadly, no ventriloquism skills.

Bill Toller, Springfield:

Deacon Bill Toller has been a member of Pax Christi MA for several years and committed to peacemaking for the past 22 years as an ordained deacon in Springfield. Bill was a founding member of Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence, Nonviolent Springfield Coalition, and is a member of the Interfaith Council of Greater Springfield. Bill has led JustFaith groups (formation in Catholic Social Teaching) for 18 years that have involved over 300 graduates in the Springfield area. Bill is married, the father of three daughters, and has five grandchildren. Bill still works part-time for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2022-2023

<u>Co-Coordinator:</u>	<u>Co-Coordinator:</u>
Philip Harak	Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x
6 Geryk Ct.	101 Summer Street
Southampton	Holliston
MA 01073	MA 01746
413-478-7542	202-997-8049
philharak@yahoo.com	(email page 12)
<u>Treasurer:</u>	<u>Secretary:</u>
Nancy Carapezza	Jeanne Allen
13 Red Barn Road	10 Sutton Place
Wayland, MA 01778	Easthampton, 01027
508-740-4500	413-270-5880
npez@comcast.net	(email page 12)
<u>OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:</u>	
Sr.Linda Bessom (Somerville);	Irene Desharnais
(Jamaica Plain);	Pat Ferrone
(Needham);	Sally Markey
(Springfield);	Mike Moran
(Palmer/Newsletter Editor);	Rose
Morrissey	(Westborough)
Sr.RitaRaboin	(Somerville);
<u>QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS</u> are held virtually at 10:00 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next two will be held December 9 & March 9, 2024.	

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.

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.

Sr. Rita Raboin, SNDdeN
Paulist Center, 5 Park St
Boston, MA
rita.raboin@sndden.org
Contact for meeting info

Cape Cod P.C.

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@gmail.com
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

Metro West P.C.

Jan Leary
janleary@aol.com
Contact for meeting info

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 Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Chapel of Reconciliation

Newton P.C.

Ann Capoccia
573 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02458
(617) 527-7360
anncapoccia@verizon.net

Mtgs 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Rhode Island P.C.

Margo Murphy
(401) 861-6988
margomurph@aol.com
Madeline Labriola
(845) 691-8015
mlabriola@mac.com
St. Peter's Church
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
Matt Spearing
978-774-1050 Ext 350
mspearing@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
jallen10sp@gmail.com
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 7:00 PM

*(NOTE: Meetings of many groups
are virtual due to Covid concerns)*

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 send changes or additions to Mike Moran: moran3@comcast.net (135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069)

Pax Christi Massachusetts
Good Shepherd Parish
99 Main Street, Wayland, MA 01778

paxchristima@gmail.com
www.paxchristima.org