



## The Peacemaker of 1625 Award Goes to ...Roger Conant

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, S.X.

A leisurely walk on a summer day brought me to a memorial plaque on a large granite rock that happily surprised me. I am a student of history and always take time to read commemorative plaques that highlight significant historical events here in New England.

So here I was spending a day on Cape Ann, starting in Gloucester, enjoying a walk at Stage Fort Park. I found that this was the site where the village first stood in 1623 which later became the city of Gloucester. This beginning came about due to an intentional separation of a group of colonists from the Plymouth colony, some who had arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 and others who came on later voyages but separated from the Puritans due to their austere way of life in the Plymouth colony as well as the use of violence to punish their own.

These separatists were considered renegades by the Puritans who remained in Plymouth, but they held to a more inclusive and integrative manner of community building, even with the local indigenous peoples. This new

colony was the beginning of what would become the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Gloucester/Salem, which eventually moved to Boston. They were originally fishermen and farmers from Dorchester England.

What I found so interesting about the plaque on that rock was that the city of Gloucester in 1907 wished to commemorate what became the very first experience in nonviolent conflict resolution



Plaque at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, MA (photo, Fr. Rocco)

through arbitration and diplomacy in our state. There were tensions between the two colonies from the beginning, especially regarding fishing rights, and by 1624 the threat of a violent confrontation between the colonies was a reality.

In 1625, Gov. Roger Conant

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## What Would Jesus Do in 2024?

By David O'Brien

On the 4th of July Pax Christi USA shared a warning against American Christian nationalism. This was presented on the American holiday under the general principle that "our discipleship to Jesus puts us unequivocally in opposition to the aims and goals of empire" (emphasis in message).

This sounds familiar as a long-accepted foundation for Christian nonviolence requiring civil disobedience to all governments with a present practice of "empire." I think we American Christians need to reflect on this longstanding formulation in light of the summons to solidarity extending from Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes* to *Laudato Si*.

Three preliminary bases for Christian peace dialogue with our

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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.**

## The Peacemaker...

*Continued from page 1*

averted a violent and bloody conflict between this new Cape Ann colony under the leadership of Captain Neves and the Plymouth Colony led by Miles Standish. This was to be a notable example of arbitration in the very beginnings of the colonies here in Massachusetts. It is a part of our history that few know exists. Conant, who only arrived at Plymouth in 1623 and was part of that first separatist group that year that moved to Cape Ann, became the first governor of the English settlers there in 1626 due to his leadership and his commitment to peaceful conflict resolution.

So, Pax Christi Massachusetts wishes to lift up Roger Conant and this example of peaceful resolution of a conflict that is part of our early history. If we were around 1625, I am sure that we would have honored Roger Conant as we do our contemporary Peacemakers each year.

Next year is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event, and I hope to find partners in Cape Ann who may wish to celebrate this event as we work to find other peacemakers - leaders in peaceful resolutions of conflicts - who are part of our history here in Massachusetts.

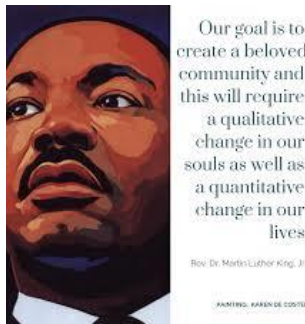
There may be more examples of peacemakers than we are aware of. We may learn that our own local history includes men and women, rooted in Gospel nonviolence as Gov. Conant was, who committed themselves to create a community of peace.

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

## What Would Jesus..

*Continued from page 1*

Three preliminary bases for Christian peace dialogue with our fellow citizens might be: First, God loves everybody in our common home, the world. In Vatican II the Bishops said the "joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties" of "men [and women] of this age" are shared by "the followers of Christ." Christian humanism frames our Americanism. So, all wars are civil wars, and how history, everybody's and our own, turns out actually matters.



*Karen de Coster (medium.com)*

Second, how history turns out is a "small p" politics question: we humans make history, alone and together, like it or not. So, if history matters, there is a political measure of religion as well as a religious measure of politics. Religion and politics require a two-way conversation, about a shared project.

And third, self-government - that's what our American "democracy" is about - changes everything. It adds genuine social responsibility (not just concern) to our longstanding sense of personal responsibility. The "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD) question is about personal conscience, which thrives

on prayerful personal response to signs of the times. But when we ask WWJD about "empire" and its options, we face shared, social responsibility, drawing us once again to the "small p" politics of democratic self-government. I fear that while broad brush denunciations of "empire" lead us to admirable works of mercy and justice and peace, the poor remain with us, and wars are waged, and creation slides away - and we share responsibility.

Maybe the Crucifixion means we have to lose, but Martin Luther King, Jr. and many other disciples, like Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, did not buy that, nor should we. The Incarnation and the Resurrection are about God with us, making us witnesses to - and called to be architects of - what King and clouds of witnesses knew as "the beloved community."

Noticing "empire" and announcing that we're against it might help, but that won't get us there. That will need the thick citizenship of "small p politics," the practice of citizenship as a requirement of discipleship, as the vocation of Christians who are free to live in and for the world.

*-David O'Brien is a Holy Cross College history professor emeritus.*

### 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](mailto:npez@comcast.net)

# Hiroshima Day 2024 in Springfield

By Mike Moran

On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, almost 80 greater Springfield residents gathered on the steps of Springfield's City Hall to commemorate the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan on August 6 and 9, 1945, the only use of nuclear weapons in warfare, and to work for the elimination of these weapons from the face of the earth.

The annual event was sponsored by Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence, co-sponsored by Pax Christi and six other local organizations, and co-hosted by lead organizer, Sr. Annette McDermott, SSJ, and GSCNV chair Jane Virgilio.

After a welcome from Jane, Sr. Annette introduced the interfaith panel of four readers as the characters in Thomas Merton's powerful 1961 prose poem "Original Child Bomb," a rough translation of the Japanese name for the atomic bomb: commentator (Muslim); reporter (Jewish); bomb (Christian); and hope (Bahai).



Merton readers, Jane Virgilio (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) (photo, Sr. Annette)

Keynote speaker Dr. Ira Helfand, Pax Christi MA's 2022 peacemaker awardee, warned that with the world "closer to nuclear war than we have ever been," such

a conflict, now fought with weapons 6 to 50 times more powerful than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, would likely kill hundreds of millions of people in the first half hour and that survivors would be living in a world incapable of recovery.

But he noted that proposals for multilateral nuclear disarmament from popular movements like the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and, in the U.S., the grassroots movement Back from the Brink, are gaining political traction, with local endorsers including Reps. McGovern and Neal, Springfield's City Council, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield.

Sr. Clare Carter, a Buddhist nun from the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, invoked her faith in human goodness to overcome nuclear weapons and praised Japan's 1947 constitution for its reliance on "the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world" for Japan's national security.

Kevin Young, a UMass Amherst history professor and board member of event co-sponsor Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation (the second U.S. union to endorse Back from the Brink) noted the power of the labor movement to retool industrial production from military to civilian purposes, citing a resourceful "Plan" designed by Lucas Aerospace workers in the UK as far back as the 1970s.

Merriam Ansara, a board member of Massachusetts Peace Action, brought a lovely display of peace lanterns which she explained had been hand-crafted by children in Easthampton. Sr. Clare and a group of monks from the Peace Pagoda closed the event with silent prayer and drumming in the

Buddhist tradition.



Hiroshima Day 2024, Springfield (photo, Sophie A. Markham)

Attendees departed with renewed energy, direction, and determination to accept Dr. Helfand's challenge to "save the world" from the scourge of nuclear weapons.

-Mike is editor of this newsletter.

## Gaza Update from Plymouth Rock

By Jan Leary

Since January a small group of very committed individuals supportive of Palestine have done a "Standout" at Plymouth Rock on Saturday mornings from noon to about 2pm, rain or very hot sun.

I've been meeting with them since June. Several stalwart Jewish people are part of this group, as is a family from Palestine. One upcoming project is a presentation of the Steadfast Hope series at the local Plymouth library.

One Saturday in late July, a group of pro-Israel demonstrators came to confront us. They intentionally try to disrupt the many Standouts in Massachusetts. It was a bit noisy, but peaceful, and I was very impressed by the kindness of Plymouth police who were there.

-Jan coordinates the Metro West PC local group.



# An Open Letter to General Dynamics Employees

*[Note: This letter was published as a guest editorial in the Dedham Times on June 28, 2024. -Ed.]*

*“War does not solve any problem. It only sows death and destruction, increases hate, multiplies vengeance. War erases the future.”  
Pope Francis*

Dear Friends at General Dynamics,

We respect that you consider your work at General Dynamics, one of the major military weapons manufacturers in the U.S., to be both important and necessary, and an honest means of support for you and your family. However, we request that you read our urgent letter, then ask whether your contribution to the arms industry truly encourages human flourishing and promotes the global common good.

We recognize our own culpability in the lucrative business of war - by our silence, and with tax dollars that are wasted on war while important needs of people go wanting. We are a part of this dilemma of conscience, searching for ways to refuse to be complicit.

We are gravely concerned about the consequences of all wars but address the current retaliatory war by the Israeli government on the people of Gaza, now marking almost 9 months of devastation. Israelis rightly mourn those who were murdered and captured by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and we grieve with them. At the same time, Palestinians have suffered the annihilation of at least 38,000

loved ones, and tens of thousands have been wounded. No cessation of enmity, killing, and destruction appears in sight. The parents of Maoz Inon, an Israeli peace activist, were both killed in Hamas’s October 7th massacre. Still, he insists, “the equation of death” must be replaced by “an equation of life.” “Life comes first.” “Do the deal. Get it done. Get everyone home, Palestinians and Israelis!”

But to this day, death stalks the land, reminding us that an “eye for an eye” only produces more blindness. The United States, a determined ally of Israel, shores up the efforts of the Israeli government with billions of dollars in military support. Physicians in Gaza tell of bullets and bombs, procured from arms manufacturers here, that send shards of shrapnel into bodies, including those of children. The atrocities make a



*Pastor Munther Isaac (bethbc.edu)*

mockery of human compassion and the belief that each of us is created in the image of God. Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian, outraged at the silence and complicity of American churches and the distortion of theology to “dehumanize, demonize and wipe away the indigenous people,” also laments that “the best of our human minds are being used to

create machines to kill people.” Our partnership with Israel makes us facilitators in this carnage. We, too, are responsible for the despair of a population unmoored from shelter and stability and the consolation of loved ones.

What is called “war” requires intense planning, designed to bring about the defeat of a country’s “enemies,” as well as the destruction of culture and infrastructure. It causes massive dislocation, starvation, and poisons the earth and its inhabitants. It is the source of psychological and spiritual harm to both perpetrators and victims. It is untenable, and beneath the call to the human community to care for one another. But it creates jobs, provides billions of dollars in revenue to arms-makers, and allows portfolio investments to grow fat with profit.

But though the insanity of war continues (there are currently 110 current wars in the world), resistance persists. Note the young “Israeli Refusers,” sacrificing future possibilities and enduring prison time and ostracism because they identify with the suffering of the Palestinians and refuse to kill. Or learn the story of 16 year USAF serviceman Riley Livermore who has resigned, saying, “There is nothing responsible about aiding and abetting a genocide.”

To you who are part of the weapons industry, we ask you, as we ask ourselves, what is it we are called to do for the sake of the one peaceful global community to which we aspire? We are concerned that those who continue to produce weapons, and we who support death-dealing policies, diminish our humanity, causing the death and suffering of those designated by others as enemies.

We must begin to discuss how we can work to construct a world that is safe and healthy for all people's children. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this open letter.

In Hope,  
Pat Ferrone  
Pax Christi MA Community

*-Pat coordinates the St. Susanna Parish PC local group in Dedham.*

## Let Us Serve God at All Times

*Rev. Valentine Nworah, parochial vicar at St. Brigid's Parish in Amherst, celebrated the annual Mass co-sponsored by Pax Christi Western MA in honor of Blessed Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter and delivered this homily.*

First, let me acknowledge and thank the members of Pax Christi for inviting me to celebrate this Mass in memory of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter and his wife, Franziska. Let me also acknowledge the presence of my mother, Dr. Mrs Judith Nworah, who's visiting me here in the diocese of Springfield for the first time. Welcome, Ma.



*(saintbrigidsamherst.org)*

Today, we can appreciate different behaviors in the people looking for Jesus: some have eaten the material bread and are looking for

more, so they are persistent in their search for Jesus. While others are requesting a miraculous sign. Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life."

With his response, Jesus questions their intention and ours for seeking and following him, while inviting them and us to give more attention to the most important mission we have here on earth, working for eternal life.

You and I, who are trying to immerse ourselves in the pages of this Gospel, do we see our attitude reflected therein? Why do we seek Jesus? Why do we follow him as Christians? Like the crowd, are we persistent enough in our efforts to find Jesus after the many gifts, doctrine, examples and lessons we have received from him? Are we resolved to observe his commandments always and against all odds?

It appears that the life of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter offers us some practical key lessons: 1) persistence in our efforts to find Jesus; 2) observing the commandments of God as a sure way to work for eternal life.

The story is simple: a peasant farmer in Austria is conscripted to fight for Hitler, refuses claiming being a Catholic and being a soldier in Hitler's army is incompatible, so they kill him to preserve military morale. He became convinced that participation in the war was a serious sin and decided that any future call-up had to be met with his refusal to fight. Not even the approval and encouragement of his priest could make him change his

mind. Blessed Franz believed he was following a higher law. He would not violate his conscience.



*Newlyweds (denvercatholic.org)*

After he was arrested, three more priests – prison chaplains – all told him the same thing., yet he **persisted in his efforts** to find Jesus and work for eternal life. He chose to honor God rather than sin in a spirit of "patriotism," love for our country - a virtue! - that sometimes convinces us to do things against the will of Christ.

According to a court document from his hearing, Blessed Franz informed military officials "that, due to his religious views, he would be acting against his conscience were he to fight for the Nazi State ... that he could not be both a Nazi and a Catholic."

Like Blessed Franz, we too must grow in our persistence in doing what is right at all times. We must stand up for our faith when it matters most. We must defend the gospel truths and the doctrines of our faith in God. This is why we are confirmed in the faith: to become soldiers and defenders of the unadulterated objective Truth found in Jesus alone.

When divine law comes into conflict with positive law, as followers of Jesus with the right intention, we must seek to follow divine law. Blessed Franz sets the example for us. Jesus already told us we cannot serve God and mammon. So let us serve God at all times. Let us work for eternal life here on earth while we still can. Amen.

# Agape's St. Kateri Tekakwitha Reparation Day

By Deacon Bill Toller and Sister Jane Morrissey, SSJ

On the very hot afternoon of Sunday, July 14, twenty of us, from many different backgrounds and group affiliations, gathered at the Agape Community in Hardwick with indigenous neighbors to celebrate the life and legacy of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and to reflect upon the sad legacy of the Catholic Church's "Doctrine of Discovery," which still negatively impacts our indigenous neighbors throughout the world

This gathering was of great importance to me personally (Bill Toller), as our local group is currently offering an eight-week JustMatters Course from US JustFaith Ministries, entitled "The Land Is Not Our Own: Seeking Repair Alongside Indigenous Communities." (For those who don't yet know us, we are 13 folks who meet regularly at Mary, Mother of Hope Church in Springfield.)

When we arrived, we were immediately welcomed into a circle, and I could feel the spiritual connection among all of us. Suzanne Shanley from Agape offered a beautiful and moving reflection on the life and legacy of St. Kateri. We then took the time around this beautiful prayer circle in St. Francis House for each of us to offer words of reflection and healing.

We listened and relearned the power of story. I was deeply touched by the authenticity, openness, and power of our

indigenous brothers' and sisters' sharings. Our hosts, Suzanne and Brayton, have long modeled listening and presence with our indigenous brothers and sisters. The concluding prayers outside with trees were dedicated to the Nipmucs and others on whose land the Agape Community rests.

It was a day of connection and seeking repair that I (Sister Jane) will hold close to my heart. Bill Toller and Jane Virgilio literally drove me to this moving afternoon. So, too, at the computer, his words remind me of all I have learned about the first dwellers in the



St. Kateri Day Attendees Gathered at Agape (photo, Teresa Wheeler)

homes of most of us reading this newsletter. Through Agape, Suzanne and Brayton over decades have raised my consciousness to the truth that all over our world, only the indigenous peoples can truly sing with Woody Guthrie that "This land is my/our land."

At the closing of the afternoon, Craig Simpson, convener of the group Massachusetts Catholics for Indigenous Rights (MC4IR), of which I am a member, thanks to Agape, recommended a document entitled "How the Doctrine of Discovery & Domination is at Work Today," subtitled "An Explainer on how Catholics can address this system of domination and begin the process of repair and

reconciliation."

It is the work of Call to Action, and the fruit of the work of one of our own local Pax Christi historians, David O'Brien. We both hope that reading this document, accessible at the link below on the Call to Action website, will awaken curiosity and enthusiasm in our readers about what each of us can do to dry the rainfall of tears that must have been shed over the years by St. Kateri and her many unnamed companions.

<https://www.cta-usa.org/indigenoussolidarityexplainer>

-Bill is a board member, and Sr. Jane, a co-founder, of PCMA.

## Mary on the Margins: PCMA Retreat Report

By Jeanne Allen

Rainy chill did not deter Pax Christi Massachusetts stalwarts and novices gathered at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Holliston for the annual retreat on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

There are many ideas of who Mary was, what she was like, and her role in our faith, depending on where and how you were raised and what your experiences in life have been. Opening with an adapted Magnificat, retreat co-leaders Sister Tess Brown, SCN, and Sister Rita Raboin, SNDdeN, posit that Mary was not a mousy white-bread wallflower, as European art often depicts her, but a woman on the move. Although we have a sparse record of her words, she was powerful in her witness of obedience



(Annunciation), service (Visitation), and accompaniment (with Jesus and the disciples in his public life, all the way to the Cross). And she accompanies us, and all those on the margins of life, to this day.

An intriguing aspect of the retreat was that we had homework - Scripture passages for us to read and pray with beforehand. During the first small group discussion time, we shared which reading had resonated most deeply with each of us, and why. Results were posted on the wall. People then had the option to share their choices with the larger group. The passages and reasons were as varied as the attendees. I was struck by the openness and depth of the sharing, especially as people did not necessarily know the other people in their groups.



*Sr. Tess Brown, Sr. Rita Raboin (photo, Fr. Rocco Puopolo)*

We ended our morning session with personal time for reflection in the hall, out on the Shrine's grounds, or in the chapel.

In addition, we were asked to bring some sort of depiction of Mary that resonated with us. The art depicted Mary in different cultures from Asia and Africa to the indigenous Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as classical European art. There were many Madonnas, the Holy Family's Flight into Egypt, and many Pietás as well. Especially moving to me were photos of

Gazan women holding their shroud-wrapped deceased children - Pietás of our time. There was also a moving and thought-provoking icon of "Our Lady of Ferguson," in which the Christ Child seen in her womb was delineated by a rifle scope.

After a lunch with our co-retreatants, we focused on Mary along the journey. She did a lot of walking - to visit Elizabeth; to Nazareth for the census; to Egypt; to and from the Temple when Jesus was 12; with Jesus on the walk to Calvary, etc. - always interacting with people along the way. Even the songs we sang - "Santa Maria, Ven" ("Come with Us, Mary") and "Wiyala-Woyaya" ("We are Going") - reflected our journey.

Afternoon group sharings focused on Mary and the Margins, as a Mirror of Justice. Here are some thoughts that were shared: "The invisible woman is made visible in Mary;" "We have infinite power in the face of challenge if we accept the love of God;" "Mary set a new precedent in accepting this unique role."

One surprising fact that emerged in discussion is that the Koran has more about Mary in it than the Bible does.

We were then given some challenge questions: What gives us hope, nourishes us, renews us? How do people form us? What do we see in Mary when she faces a challenge? What is our hope? What motivates us to keep on walking? Then a blessing was given by two of our spiritual mothers for peace, Suzanne Belote Shanley, and Pat Ferrone. We closed with a reprise of "Santa Maria, Ven."

Several books were recommended for further consideration:

\*Elizabeth Borsch, *Chatting with Mary: Heart of a Mother: A 30-Day Journal for Connecting with the Blessed Mother* (author, 2021)

\*Sajith Cyriac, *A Way of the Cross with Mary* (St. Pauls, 2009)

Christine Valters Paintner, *Birthing the Holy: Wisdom from Mary to Nurture Creativity and Renewal* (Sorin Books, 2022)



*Depictions of Mary are on table at left (photo, Fr. Rocco Puopolo)*

In addition, the December 2015 issue of *National Geographic* magazine has a cover and feature article about Mary. It's only available online to subscribers, but the print issue can be ordered online here for \$8.00:

<https://ngsingleissues.nationalgeographic.com/national-geographic/2015>

A fascinating interview of the *National Geographic* article's author, Maureen Orth, in the *National Catholic Reporter* by NCR contributor Tom Gallagher provides additional background:

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/author-discusses-writing-national-geographic-s-december-cover-story-virgin-mary>

*-Jeanne is PCMA board secretary.*

# Faneuil Hall Name Change Movement Continues

By Sr. Linda Bessom, SNDdeN

Faneuil Hall is named for the slave trader who gave it to the City of Boston - the wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil (1700-1743). He made his money by sending New England products to enslaved labor farms ("plantations") in the Caribbean. In exchange, ships with enslaved Africans arrived in Boston at nearby Dock Square and a marketplace of enslaved men, women, and children flourished on the site of what we call Slave Trader (Faneuil) Hall. It was a marketplace of misery.

In 1750, Suffolk County was home to 1,270 enslaved people, 10% of the total population. They were bought and sold by traders like Faneuil. Many more enslaved people were taken elsewhere in Massachusetts and beyond. The Hall is incongruously known as the "Cradle of Liberty" and a site on the Freedom Trail.

In fact, Peter Faneuil was a white supremacist and monarchist who contributed NOTHING to liberty and freedom. His name speaks only of subjugation and bondage. His name distorts and obscures the true historical narrative: Boston's economy, governance, and culture was built - not on lofty democratic ideals - but on the lowly granite foundation and iron chains of slavery. No public building should bear the name of a white supremacist whose sole and foremost legacy is stained by blood, tears, and torn flesh.

As Pax Christi MA members learned from Rev. Kevin Peterson

and others at our 2023 assembly, THE WHOLE TRUTH of Peter Faneuil must be told! For this citadel of democracy to bear his name CHAINS ALL OF US to the worst of our past! **WE MUST BREAK THE CHAINS!** Names are symbols that recall our values and point us to a desired FUTURE. Attached to an iconic and purported symbol of democracy, the name of Faneuil is a disgrace to Boston.

Since 2017, protesters have requested a hearing with our Mayor and the Boston City Council to discuss the horrific history of Slave Trader (Faneuil) Hall. The purpose of the hearing is racial repair and reconciliation by:



*Faneuil Hall protest (change.org)*

- 1) serving as a public forum to consider renaming of Slave Trader (Faneuil) Hall and to plan an inclusive grassroots process to choose a name of which we may be proud; 2) identifying and discussing opportunities within the Marketplace and throughout the City to create a holistic narration that includes Boston's history of enslavement and centuries of struggle by Boston area indigenous residents and people of color, particularly African-Americans; 3) examining ways in which Boston public schools can teach the legacy of poisonous racism and its antidotes; and 4) engaging in systemic policy reform to address issues of race, discrimination, segregated housing, economic inequity, health disparity, and high

rates of Black male homicide and incarceration.

Everyone can join this campaign by signing this petition to demand a hearing from the Boston City Council and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu:

<https://www.change.org/p/boston-mayor-michelle-wu-change-the-name-of-faneuil-hall-to-eradicate-white-supremacy-from-a-national-landmark>

-Sr. Linda is on the PCMA board.

## Book Reviews

Annie Jacobsen, *Nuclear War: A Scenario* (Dutton, 2024); Timmon Wallis, *Warheads to Windmills: Preventing Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War* (Indispensable Press, 2023).

By Mike Moran

In an "Author's Note" at the start of her book, Annie Jacobson says, "A nuclear strike on the Pentagon is just the beginning of a scenario the finality of which will be the end of civilization as we know it. This is the reality of the world in which we live. The nuclear war scenario proposed in this book could happen tomorrow. Or later today."

If that's enough to scare you away from further reading, this reaction is perfectly understandable. But every American should overcome that fear and read every word which follows. While not quite as straightforward as the scenario in the book, the story is told on a minute-to-minute basis, and it quickly becomes a real page-

*(Continued on page 11)*





# Pax Christi Assembly in person and via zoom



## November 2, 2024

### Featuring Frida Berrigan

# "Cultivating Hope, Creating Joy - No Matter What"

Please join us for a special day with Frida Berrigan. Together, we will explore the "thread" of **living the love of Gospel Nonviolence** as a spiritual and activist means of addressing the personal and systemic violence that hinders the flourishing of the global community. Frida, lovingly nurtured by her parents, Philip Berrigan and Liz McAllister, was raised in/by the Jonah House Catholic Worker community. She is a gifted writer, a prophetic peace activist, a wife and mother, and a community leader. Frida is connected with the War Resisters League, Pax Christi, and the Catholic Worker movement. She is the co-founder of Witness Against Torture, and the author of "It Runs in the Family: On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing into Rebellious Motherhood." In her serious dedication to the works of peace and resistance, she warmly cultivates hope, and creates joy.

*There will be a panel presentation in the afternoon.*

**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 **Asape Community & St Susanna Parish, Dedham**

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation \$40 at the door but please register by mail or email by October 25th (Lunch Included)**

**Preregistration sent to [paxchristima@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristima@gmail.com) Students Free!**

For those attending via Zoom, it is free. Email [paxchristima@gmail.com](mailto: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.

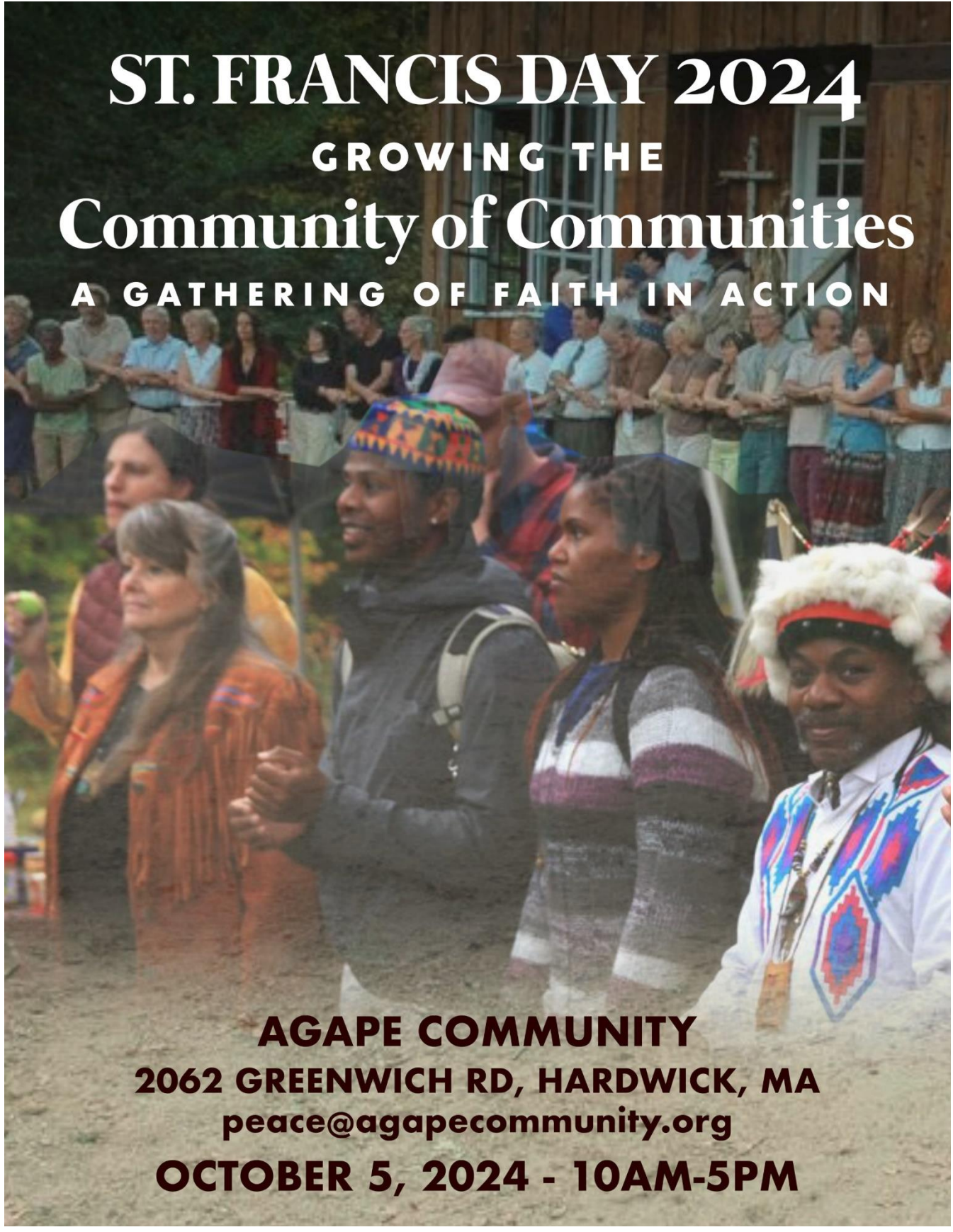
**Mail Registration to:**

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

\*Scholarships available

[www.paxchristima.org](http://www.paxchristima.org)

For information: [paxchristima@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristima@gmail.com)



**ST. FRANCIS DAY 2024**  
**GROWING THE**  
**Community of Communities**  
**A GATHERING OF FAITH IN ACTION**

**AGAPE COMMUNITY**  
**2062 GREENWICH RD, HARDWICK, MA**  
**[peace@agapecommunity.org](mailto:peace@agapecommunity.org)**  
**OCTOBER 5, 2024 - 10AM-5PM**



## Book Reviews

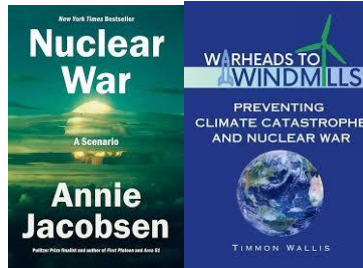
(Continued from page 8)

turner, as you desperately hope for a better outcome than the one that seems to be taking shape from page to page.

Perhaps the scariest part is that the scenario, however horrifying, reflects existing protocols and policy guidelines which are in place in the United States and the other eight nuclear powers. And it's based on interviews that Jacobsen conducted with dozens of current and former political, military, and academic members (all credited) of the US nuclear weapons establishment.

The text of the scenario is interspersed with nine short "history lessons" (on topics like "Deterrence," "The ICBM," and "The President's Football"), which can be read as you go along, or separately later. I found it helpful to read them as they occur, both for the useful background information they offer and for some relief from the tension of the narrative, which ends (spoiler alert) 72 minutes after it starts. Here's how Jacobsen summarizes the end of her story:

"How tragic and ironic it is that human beings developed slow and steady over hundreds of thousands of years, culminating in the creation of vast and complex civilizations, only to get zeroed out in a war that takes less than a few hours from beginning to end." (p. 247)



But wait! Is that how the story has to end? Not if Timmon Wallis has his way. Executive Director of NuclearBan.US and its "Warheads to Windmills" project (Pax Christi MA is a member of the MA W2W Coalition), he shows in this book not only the capacity but the urgent need to shift the global economy from production of weapons (especially nuclear weapons) to care of human needs (especially the environment).

While some unavoidably technical language in Part 2 (Climate) can appear daunting, abundant charts, diagrams, and other visuals throughout the book help to clarify unfamiliar terms. Part 3 (Warheads to Windmills), particularly Chapter 15 (Jobs and Economic Conversion), makes a detailed and convincing case that workers in the nuclear weapons industry have the ideal skill set to transition the world into a green economy (a topic also addressed, regarding New Mexico, by Archbishop John Wester in his pastoral letter *Living in the Light of Christ's Peace*, pages 32-33).

How much more appealing and inspiring is Wallis's vision of the future (below) than the vision at the end of Jacobsen's scenario (above)?

"A green transition can employ millions of people... Many... positions could be filled by the exact people currently employed in the nuclear weapons industry. While they're busy inventing and building more efficient means of mass extinction, we need their skills, talents and expertise now to invent and build our way out of a climate catastrophe." (p. 255)

For a deeper dive into these two books, check out these recent webinars, thanks to Back from the Brink (Jacobsen+, May 29, 2024) and NuclearBan.US (Wallis+, May 7, 2023):

<https://preventnuclearwar.org/a-conversation-with-annie-jacobsen-video/>

<https://www.nuclearban.us/warheads-to-windmills-webinar-2/>

### Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2023-2024

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**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS** are held virtually at 9:00 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next two will be held on December 14 & March 8.



## Local Groups

### **Berkshire P.C.**

Carolyn Zablonty  
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### **Beverly P.C.**

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Contact for meeting info

### **Boston (Citywide) P.C.**

Sr. Rita Raboin, SNDdeN  
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[rita.raboin@sndden.org](mailto:rita.raboin@sndden.org)  
Contact for meeting info

### **Cape Cod P.C.**

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[paxchristi-cc@comcast.net](mailto: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)**

Charlotte Stanley  
55 Pleasant Street  
Berlin, MA 01503-1610  
[cstanley041258@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rndpsx@hotmail.com)  
Mtgs 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:mkelly@holycross.edu)  
Meetings and activities geared to  
college calendar

### **Metro West P.C.**

Jan Leary  
[janleary@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:sheilmatthews@aol.com)  
Mtgs 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Chapel of Reconciliation

### **Newton P.C.**

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Mtgs 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 PM

### **Rhode Island P.C.**

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Madeline Labriola  
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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](mailto: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  
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Contact for meeting info

### **Western Mass P.C.**

Jeanne Allen  
10 Sutton Place  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
(413) 270-5880  
[jallen10sp@gmail.com](mailto:jallen10sp@gmail.com)  
Mtgs 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:moran3@comcast.net) (135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069)*

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