



Pope Leo XIV Takes a Stand... for Peace

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

We have a new pope. Popes come to the office from their particular backgrounds. Some of our recent popes came from years of diplomatic service. Others have had strong pastoral experiences as local bishops, serving close to the people in the parishes, particularly the poor. What makes Pope Leo XIV's background unique besides his membership in the Augustinian Community is his missionary experience in Peru as well as his years of leadership in his Augustinian Community as General Superior.

During his early years in Peru, the country was experiencing extreme violence due to the Shining Path Movement which attempted to overthrow the government and put in place a Socialist state. He personally was a victim of that violence when he was abducted once for several days. Many of those he ministered to in Peru then were victims of that violence, fear and loss. He understood well the cost of violence to the fabric of any society.

And as the General Superior of his Augustinian Community, he

acquired a personal view of the challenges that our world experiences, especially where violence and armed conflicts abound. This background will contribute to his teachings as our Holy Father, and that process has already begun!

There is a saying I often use which helps me claim why I do the advocacy I do: "People take stands on issues from where they sit!" Those who have had the



Pope Leo "in his element" (per Fr. Rocco) in Peru (nytimes.com)

misfortune to sit among people experiencing war, violence or any injustice know from that experience the importance of standing up for peace. We share a firm belief that peace overcomes all war, no matter what.

Pope Leo began his service as our

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Catholics Want to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

By Mike Moran

So said nearly half of 900+ respondents to a recent survey of North American Catholics and others on their attitudes toward nuclear weapons that was conducted by PCAN, the Pax Christi New England Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

And almost 85% of them felt great concern over the existential threat of nuclear weapons. PCAN announced publication of its final report at Pax Christi USA's national conference in Detroit on July 26, 2025 (see page x). The full report can be read at this link on the Pax Christi Massachusetts website:

<https://tinyurl.com/3cb5muus>

As a member of the PCAN team which designed and carried out the survey and documented the results, I urge readers to review especially

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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.

Pope Leo XIV...

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Holy Father with the very words of Jesus at His resurrection: “Peace be with you all! Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for God’s flock. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you! It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally.”

His words were carefully chosen. I believe the reason his delayed entrance onto the Loggia that evening was because he was crafting words for peace that would mark his ministry as Pope. Words like “A peace that is *unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering.*” These words reflect where he has sat with those innocents who are touched by violence and war and long for peace, many unarmed, but disarming in their hopes, prayer and persistence, humble and persevering... long-suffering.

In most of his addresses during these early months of his papacy, he has pleaded for peace in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Congo, South Sudan, to mention a few. He even offered the Vatican as a venue for peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

At a meeting with journalists in the first weekend of his ministry, he said: “Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others,

listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say “no” to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.”

On Sunday, June 22nd after the Angelus Message, he said: “ War does not solve problems; on the contrary, it amplifies them and inflicts deep wounds on the history of peoples, which take generations to heal. No armed victory can compensate for the pain of mothers, the fear of children, or stolen futures. May diplomacy silence the weapons! May nations chart their futures with works of peace, not with violence and bloodstained conflicts!



Leo XIV makes his public debut in Rome as Pope (cnn.com)

On July 14th he wrote to the Bishop of Hiroshima, Most Reverend Alexis Shirahama: “I offer cordial greetings to all gathered to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In a particular way, I express my sentiments of respect and affection for the *hibakusha* survivors, whose stories of loss and suffering are a timely summons to all of us to build a safer world and foster a climate of peace.

Though many years have passed, the two cities remain living

reminders of the profound horrors wrought by nuclear weapons. Their streets, schools and homes still bear scars - both visible and spiritual—from that fateful August of 1945. In this context, I hasten to reiterate [the words so often used](#) by my beloved predecessor [Pope Francis](#): “War is always a defeat for humanity.”

...It is thus my prayer that this solemn anniversary will serve as a call to the international community to renew its commitment to pursuing lasting peace for our whole human family—“a peace that is unarmed and disarming” ([First Apostolic Blessing “Urbi et Orbi”](#), 8 May 2025).

We can only hope that Pope Leo continues to advocate for peace through his words and his actions. Maybe he will compose an encyclical on peace that we had hoped Pope Francis would write. We pray that his persistence and faith will inspire more religious and civil leaders to call for peace, dialogue, and reconciliation as the healing balm for our world community.

-Fr. Rocco is the coordinator of Pax Christi MA.

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

Catholics Want...

Continued from page 1

the impressive documentation provided by the 40% of our respondents who have already worked for the global abolition of nuclear weapons, often over many years (see Addendum A, page 14).

Conducted in collaboration with the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the survey's other key findings were: the lack of discussion of the threat of nuclear weapons in public and by religious leaders and press is a key discouragement to action; yet, there is significant potential to mobilize this action with effective leadership from Church religious and lay leaders; people have responded well to such leadership, e.g., by Pope Francis, Archbishop Wester, and Pax Christi.

While the report stops just short of an explicit call to action, PCAN team members are advocating support, in their extensive outreach efforts, for legislation at all levels to abolish nuclear weapons. These include resolutions by municipal governments in many states; in the Massachusetts state legislature, [S.1649](#) (introduced by Sen. Jo Comerford); in the U.S. House, [H.Res.317](#) (introduced by Rep. Jim McGovern); and in the U.S. Senate, [S.Res.323](#) (introduced by Sen. Ed Markey and four senators from MD, OR, and VT).

These are all "Back from the Brink" resolutions, nicknamed for the U.S. grassroots campaign founded in 2017 which calls on the United States to initiate negotiations among all nine nuclear armed states to abolish their nuclear weapons through a multilateral, timebound, verifiable agreement. BftB was one of the

other affiliations listed by many of our survey respondents who have already worked to abolish nuclear weapons (Addendum B, page 14).

While all PCAN survey team members are duly acknowledged on page 33 of the report, a special debt of thanks is owed to Pax Christi MA board member and webmaster Linda Taylor, our lead survey designer, data cruncher, and report author, without whose expertise and leadership neither the survey nor the report would exist.

The PCAN team thanks the many Pax Christi members, friends, and supporters who took the survey, and we invite readers to join our work for a world without nuclear weapons during and beyond this Jubilee Year and 80th anniversary year of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Contact: PCAN chair Peter Metz (pmetz@alum.mit.edu) or PCAN communication director Mike Moran (moran3@comcast.net).



Fr. Bashar Fawadleh (lpj.org)

The Greatest of These Is Hope

Keeping the Faith in the Occupied West Bank: A Conversation with Fr. Bashar Fawadleh
By Jeanne Connerney

"There are no rights to live. There are no rights to move. There are no rights to learn. There are no rights to play. There are no rights to travel." With these words, the pastor at Christ the Redeemer Church describes life in his village of Taybeh, Occupied Palestine. After celebrating the 4:00 Saturday afternoon Mass at Saint Susanna's Roman Catholic Church in Dedham on June 28, Father Bashar Fawadleh, spoke to a crowd of 50 – 60 people about remaining hopeful under Israeli occupation, the constant presence of the Israeli army, and the threat of settler violence. I then continued our conversation.

With a declining population of only 1,300 people, Taybeh is the last remaining entirely Christian village in the West Bank. Known as *Ephraim* in the Gospel of John, Taybeh is where Jesus went with his disciples after raising Lazarus from the dead and where he sought refuge prior to his crucifixion.

Taybeh was one of the three West Bank villages attacked by Israeli settlers only two days before Fr. Fawadleh's visit to Dedham. More than 100 settlers attacked homes and lit a fire at the village entrance. In the nearby village of Kafr Malik masked settlers set fire to cars and homes and shot at residents. Three were killed and nine were injured, one fatally, although it remains unclear whether by settlers or the Israeli army. The violent gang also set fire to a Palestinian home in Jericho. On July 4 settlers once again set fire to Taybeh, allegedly backed by the Israeli forces.

Settler violence is nothing new in Taybeh. Shortly before our conversation, a settler outpost was erected in Taybeh on the site of a farmhouse on vital agricultural

land whose inhabitants had been displaced a year ago. Outposts are [Israeli settlements](#) in the [West Bank](#), constructed without authorization from the [Israeli government](#). Often, they are retroactively legalized, however. Both outposts and settlements remain illegal under international law. Supposedly deployed to the West Bank to quell the violence between settlers and Palestinians, the Israel Defense Forces often either look the other way or actively assist settlers.

The previous week, settlers brought their sheep and cows to graze on Palestinian crops; the animals ate all the wheat and barley being grown for food and for sale. Last month settlers broke into 14 homes in Taybeh in the middle of the night as people slept, and last harvest season, they prevented people from harvesting olives on their own land and stole their water tanks. In addition, settlers erected billboards in the region which read (in Arabic) “There is no future for you here.” Because of these events and others like them, 30 – 40 Taybeh residents keep watch each night to protect the city. “We’re under occupation and now we’re under the attacks of the settlers and we are in danger,” says Fr. Fawadleh. “We are terrified.”

Recently, Israeli soldiers erected iron gates at Taybeh, gates which are randomly open or closed by Israeli soldiers at whim, resulting in the impossibility of traveling on a schedule and massive delays in conducting any daily activities. Fr. Fawadleh pointed out, for example, that 150 students come to study in Taybeh every day, and their journey from Kafr Malik, normally 15 minutes, now may last three hours. Since October 7, 2023,

“flying checkpoints” appear randomly along the roads, causing further delays and dehumanization.

As of January, settler attacks across the West Bank average four per day. Meanwhile, since October 7, 2023, there has been at least a 100% increase in arrests in the West Bank; and according to the Commission of Detainees’ Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner Society, over one-third of prisoners are held in administrative detention without charge or trial. Many are children.

Since it occupied the Palestinian West Bank in the 1967 war, the number of Israeli settlements has steadily increased, continuing to defy international law with impunity. Following unilateral recognition of the Palestinian state



Christ the Redeemer Church, Taybeh (lpj.org)

by Ireland, Norway, and Spain in 2024, Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich pledged that a new settlement would be built for every country which joins them and promised one million new settlers in the West Bank. Israeli Defense Minister, Israel Katz said that the state must deal with the West Bank the same as they do with Gaza, including temporary evacuation of Palestinian residents. Later, he amended his statement, saying that Palestinian residents would not be allowed to return. Last year saw the highest number of Israeli land seizures in three decades and more

than the last 20 years combined. Each settlement decreases the likelihood of a future Palestinian state, given a higher percentage of Israelis who live on the land.

Born during the first intifada (a word which means uprising in Arabic) in 1987, Fr. Fawadleh’s father carried him door-to-door as a baby while distributing political literature and medicine to residents. As a young teenager, he was interviewed on Palestinian television about growing up in the West Bank. Fr. Fawadleh describes the seven years after 1993, when the Oslo Accords were signed, as peaceful. That peace was shattered when Ariel Sharon entered the Al Aqsa Mosque in 2000 and the second intifada began. He was ordained in 2014 in Ramallah on the same night Israel attacked and occupied the city. Since 2021, he has served as parish priest in Taybeh.

“I love Palestine,” he says. “I choose to live in Palestine. I was born in Palestine. I put the cross on my shoulder and follow Jesus to Golgotha. Golgotha is not the end... We wait for the third day.”

Residents have been leaving Taybeh both because of fear and lack of economic opportunity. Besides decimated crops, the decline in tourism and pilgrimages since October 7, 2023 has taken an economic toll. Fr. Fawadleh emphasizes that all Palestinians in the diaspora feel that Palestine is their homeland, but circumstances have led them to emigrate for the safety and well-being of their children and families.

Fr. Fawadleh asks us to continue to pray. He invites us to “come and see” the situation firsthand, to stay at the guesthouses in his village,

and to support his attempts to create more jobs, to prevent further emigration. He requests that we pressure the international community and our government to arrest the settlers and let Taybeh live in peace. “We don’t need anything else. We want to live in peace in a calm situation.”

Despite the immense hardships of occupation and settler violence, Fr. Fawadleh is bursting with a hope born from his faith, a hope he mentions repeatedly throughout his descriptions of the dire situation. “I’m sharing my story, not because I’m a political man, but because I’m Palestinian and I’m a priest whose vocation was born inside the intifada, and my ordination was during the attack of Israeli soldiers in Ramallah. This is the point that I use always, that what I see from the darkness is the light and from death is resurrection and life.”

“Amidst the suffering, everything is born,” he says. “I resist in faith... We have to put in the hearts of the people faith, hope, love. Believe in ourselves, our hearts, our mentality that we can arrive one day...the hope never fails.”

“I hope that one day we can arrive and seek peace together: Palestinians and Israelis. We have no problem living together; we did before... Our problem is the occupation. That’s all.”

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes that “what abides is faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.” “That’s wrong,” says Fr. Fawadleh, recalling the words of one of his teachers in the seminary, a priest from Gaza. “The greatest of these is not love; it is hope.”

-Jeannie works with St. Susanna Pax Christi in Dedham.

[Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the July 8, 2025 issue of MAPA’s newsletter: <https://masspeaceaction.org/news/palestine-israel/the-greatest-of-these-is-hope-a-conversation-with-fr-bashar-fawadleh/2025/07/08/>]

The PCMA Palestine Action Group is seeking new members. If interested, please contact jeannieconnerney@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list for future Zoom meetings.

A Life Lesson in Preaching

Fr. William Tourigny, a retired priest of the Springfield Diocese, celebrated the annual Mass on July 27, 2025, co-sponsored by Pax Christi Western MA in honor of Blessed Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter and delivered this homily, which has been edited.



Newlyweds (denvercatholic.org)

Brother Juniper once asked St. Francis, “Teach me to preach as eloquently as you. I am not good with words.” “I will teach you to preach and more eloquently than I,” said Francis. “Meet me tomorrow, and I shall teach you to preach.” Brother Juniper dutifully met Francis the next morning. To Juniper’s surprise, they began walking. They walked through the marketplace, smiling at the laborers, the merchants, the children. They helped an elderly woman carry her wash up the stairs. They walked. Finally, an

exasperated Brother Juniper asked, “Francis, when shall you teach me to preach?” Replied the saint, “Why, we are preaching.”

This weekend we are offering this Celebration of the Eucharist with Pax Christi for the intention of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, a martyr, executed by the Nazis on August 9, 1943 by the guillotine at the age of 36, and Franziska, his wife, who died in 2013 at age 100.

Franz was born in the small village of St. Radegund, Austria in 1907. The illegitimate son of Rosalia Huber, a maidservant, and Franz Bachmeier, a farmer, he was initially raised by his grandmother, Elisabeth Huber, a deeply pious woman. His mother married Heinrich Jägerstätter, a farmer from a neighboring village, in 1917, and he adopted the boy.

In 1936 Franz married Franziska Schwaninger, a devout Catholic. This marriage was a turning point in his life, as he began making his way as a farmer. The two began praying together, and Franz began studying the Bible, later taking an interest in the lives of the saints.

On being drafted in 1943, he told Nazi officials “that, due to his religious views, he refused to perform military service with a weapon, that he would be acting against his religious conscience were he to fight for the Nazi State...that he could not be both a Nazi and a Catholic.”

The Sacred Scriptures today speak of perseverance in prayer and good works. I believe it is fair to say that the life of Franz was a living and breathing sermon on how to preach by simply walking the life of faith with integrity of heart. Is that not the very request of Brother Juniper to St. Francis?

Reclaiming the Power of Nonviolence

By Jeanne Allen

A transformative weekend of hope and action, in the form of the Pax Christi USA National Conference, took place in Detroit July 24-27. I had the honor of representing PCMA there. From pre-conference meetings through the closing Mass and commissioning of new Ambassadors of Peace, we were challenged and inspired to BE the power of nonviolence in our words, prayers, and actions, wherever we find ourselves.

Vibrant music, enlightened liturgies, stirring speakers, challenging workshops, as well as time for fellowship—making new friends and reconnecting with old— and quiet prayer filled our days. The exhibitors also showed us the breadth of peace and justice work being done across the country and internationally.



Maria Stephan (photo, Jeanne)

A unique exhibition of portraits of Black Catholics done by teens was surprising in the variety of individuals shown. Billie Holiday was a Catholic? Kobe Bryant?

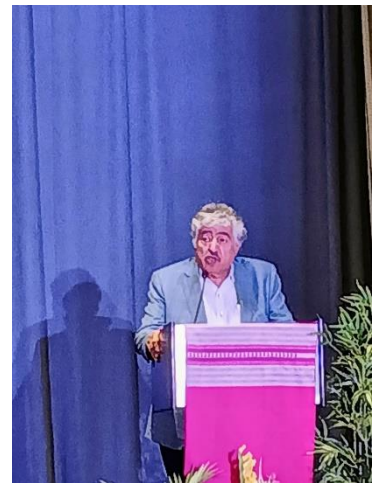
Who knew? Not me! Participatory fiber arts and resistance art sessions were also available.

Our opening session included welcomes from not only Detroit Archbishop Edward Weisenburger but also—virtually and unexpectedly—from Pope Leo XIV. “In the midst of the many challenges facing our world at this time, ... efforts to promote nonviolence are all the more necessary,” he said. “We do well to remember that after the violence of the crucifixion, the risen Christ’s first words to the Apostles offered peace, one ‘that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering.’”

Opening keynoter Maria Stephan, chief organizer of Horizons Project, challenged us, stating, “nonviolence is a spiritual force and present necessity.” She reviewed many instances in which nonviolent initiatives have brought change. “It is easy to be overwhelmed, tempting to draw inward to despair,” she commiserated, but added that “nonviolence is not only a moral stance or a principled way of life; it is a strategic force for noncooperation.” By this “strategic stubbornness,” and expanding our repertoire of nonviolent tactics, we can make repression backfire.

Saturday morning opened with uplifting and energizing morning praise, before we settled to listen to Jonathan Kuttab, international human rights lawyer and executive director of FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel North America). The situation in Palestine is “the moral issue of our generation,” he posited, because “it is taking place openly and we are observing it every day, and no one does anything.” There is denial and

gaslighting in the mainline press, many civil institutions and even churches, making them complicit. “But we have the tools to change it,” he claimed and went on to delineate them. “We don’t change the world, God does,” he reminded us. Our role is to speak out with moral authority. He claims the way forward is a single state, both Jewish **and** Arab, with institutions and a constitution that preserves the rights of all. He closed saying, “we have the opportunity to think creatively, not bound by ideology. You don’t have to hate each other; you have to learn to live together in equality and peace.”



Jonathan Kuttab (photo, Jeanne)

Two sessions of four workshops each followed lunch – immigration; the crisis in Darfur; Indigenous rights; faith-based advocacy; youth suicide and guns; Catholic Nonviolence days of action; nuclear disarmament; and resisting a surveillance state - truly an embarrassment of riches! We then had some free time for visiting exhibitors, centering prayer, sacrament of reconciliation, resistance art.

The dinner program included a message from Martha Inés Romero, Secretary General of Pax Christi International, who attended

remotely, due to possible visa delays. The inaugural Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU Peacemaker Award was presented to Joryán Hernández, a peace studies and theology doctoral student at Notre Dame, for his leadership of campus activities in solidarity with the Palestinian people. This was followed by entertainment and music from ValLimar Jansen, Santiago Fernández, and the Keir Ward Gospel Choir.

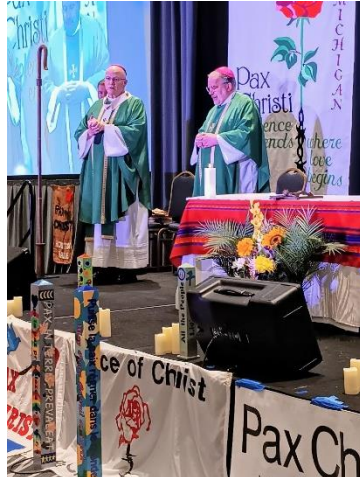
Sunday's plenary included the presentation of the 2025 Teacher of Peace Award to Meta Peace Team for its civilian-based, community-focused nonviolent presence in areas of conflict. Ralph McCloud then received the Eileen Egan Peacemaker award for his unceasing efforts to lift up and center Catholic social teaching.

This was followed by the commissioning of three new Ambassadors of Peace: Fr. Tom Lumpkin, Pax Christi Michigan; Joan Tirak, PC Michigan; Pat Valaer, PC Michigan; Nick Mele, PC Pacific Northwest/Nuclear disarmament working groups; Abigail Abysalh Metzger, PCI UN representative/Palestine solidarity working groups.

Our closing liturgy was concelebrated by Archbishop Weisenburger and Bishop John Stowe. In his homily Weisenburger took us through the Our Father, reminding us that real Christianity, "digs into this world so it is redeemed." We have to start now to bring the Kingdom here, make His will be done here as in heaven.

For those who were able to stay, there was a prayer walk and witness at the Spirit of Detroit statue, "We Lament, We Repent, We Move Forward in Hope," an apt sending forth to live

nonviolence more fully in our hearts and in our communities.



Weisenburger, Stowe (Jeanne)

For those who were unable to attend the conference, recorded sessions can be viewed on the Pax Christi USA YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PaxChristiUSA>

-Jeanne is PCMA board secretary.

Cross of Iron: The Contradictions of Protecting Life Through Abortion Bans While Rejecting Nuclear Disarmament *By Quanta Dawn-Light*

In the complex terrain of American politics, perhaps no paradox is as glaring as the simultaneous push to legislate abortion bans under the banner of "pro-life" values, while rejecting global efforts like the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), designed to reduce the existential threat to all life on Earth. This contradiction raises moral, philosophical, and practical questions about what it truly means to value human life - and whether such value is being applied consistently.

To understand the full weight of

this contradiction, it's worth recalling the powerful words of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said on April 16, 1953:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron."

Eisenhower's indictment of the military-industrial complex reveals a truth that still reverberates today: our choices around weaponry and war have real costs - not just financial, but human, ethical, and generational. When nations invest in nuclear arsenals and refuse disarmament treaties, they are placing geopolitical dominance above collective survival. When that same nation passes abortion bans in the name of protecting the unborn, the message becomes fragmented: we care about life, but only selectively.

The Selective Valuation of Life

At the core of anti-abortion legislation is a stated reverence for life - often framed as defending the most vulnerable. Proponents argue that life begins at conception, and, therefore, must be protected by the state. However, when the same legislative bodies support bloated defense budgets, reject treaties like the TPNW, and remain silent on issues like child poverty, maternal health, and gun violence, the moral high ground becomes questionable.

If life is sacred, then surely the annihilation of all life via nuclear

warfare must be the ultimate moral failure. The TPNW, adopted by the United Nations in 2017, seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons globally - weapons that, if used, would kill indiscriminately, rendering the very notion of "life protection" obsolete. Yet, the United States, while spending trillions on nuclear modernization, has refused to sign the treaty.

A Cross of Iron

Eisenhower's metaphor of "humanity hanging on a cross of iron" evokes both crucifixion and burden. Today, that burden is carried disproportionately by marginalized communities - both in the context of abortion bans and militarization. Abortion restrictions often harm those with the fewest resources: poor women, women of color, and rural communities. Meanwhile, military spending diverts public funds from education, healthcare, and infrastructure - the very systems that sustain life after birth.

Instead of investing in comprehensive maternal healthcare, childcare, or poverty alleviation - measures that would genuinely support life and motherhood - vast sums are allocated to weapons programs. It becomes increasingly clear that the rhetoric of life protection is not only inconsistent but sometimes masks deeper ideological agendas that prioritize control and power over genuine care.

A Call for Moral Coherence

If the defense of unborn life is sincere, it must be matched with an equally vigorous defense of all life - including those already born, and those threatened by the specter of nuclear annihilation. Moral

consistency demands that we not only ask when life begins, but how it is sustained, protected, and valued across every stage of existence.

Rejecting the TPNW while enforcing abortion bans sends a message that some lives are worth defending, and others are expendable in the name of deterrence, dominance, or doctrine. But, as Eisenhower warned, this is not a way of life at all - it is the crucifixion of our shared humanity.

In a world of rising tensions and environmental precarity, the choice is stark. We can continue hanging ourselves on this cross of iron — or we can choose life in its fullest, most expansive, and truest sense. Not just for the unborn, but for the entire living humanity.

-Quanta is a peace activist based in North Carolina.

What Does Christ Ask of Me?

By Jeanne Allen



Brad Wolf (photo from Brad)

Retreat leader Brad Wolf, editor of *Ministry of Risk: Writings on Peace and Nonviolence*, by Philip Berrigan, energized the 25

peacemakers who braved unexpected snow and jackknifed tractor trailers on April 12 at St. Thomas Parish in Palmer for the Pax Christi MA spring retreat, "Hope for the Long Haul."

After fellowship and refreshments, a warm welcome from St. Thomas pastor, Fr. Rick Turner, land acknowledgement, and opening prayer, Brad introduced us to Phil.

"In our time more than ever we need **story** for hope and resistance," he said. "Phil Berrigan was the author of his **own** story, which led him to his life of resistance." He lived resistance and hope from the 1950s until his death in 2002...

[Along with Brad's keynote, a simple lunch, and small group discussions] We...watched the powerful documentary, "The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous," which brought Phil and his brother Dan to life.

...We ended with prayer, then gathered "12 baskets of leftovers," and left for home or to share the parish liturgy. An appropriate theme as we enter Holy Week, we'll be pondering, "What does Christ want from me?" for a long time.

[Editor's notes: To read Jeanne's full report on our retreat and to see more photos, see:

<https://paxchristima.org/past-events/>

[Click here for a copy of Brad Wolf's retreat presentation](#)

To view reporter Steve Kiltonic's 7-minute story about our retreat on the Springfield Diocese's weekly TV show, "Real to Reel:" [video](#)



Pax Christi Assembly in person and via Zoom

October 18, 2025

Featuring Brother Mickey McGrath OSFS
**Peacemaking Through Turbulent
Times: Art, Passion and Purpose**



In his own words Br. Mickey says, "I paint, write, and tell stories- and then travel all over the place telling the stories behind what I paint and write."

He began as a teacher of art in schools and colleges and in 1994 moved to full time artist, leading retreats, creating books and giving presentations. He intends to share more fully the deep connections between art and faith, and more importantly, hope and joy.

Come join us at our annual assembly as we bring our concerns of the turbulent world of today and find through eyes of the heart and art ways to empower our commitment to peace.



**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 **Agape 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 3rd. (Lunch Included)

Preregistration sent to paxchristima@gmail.com Students Free!

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.

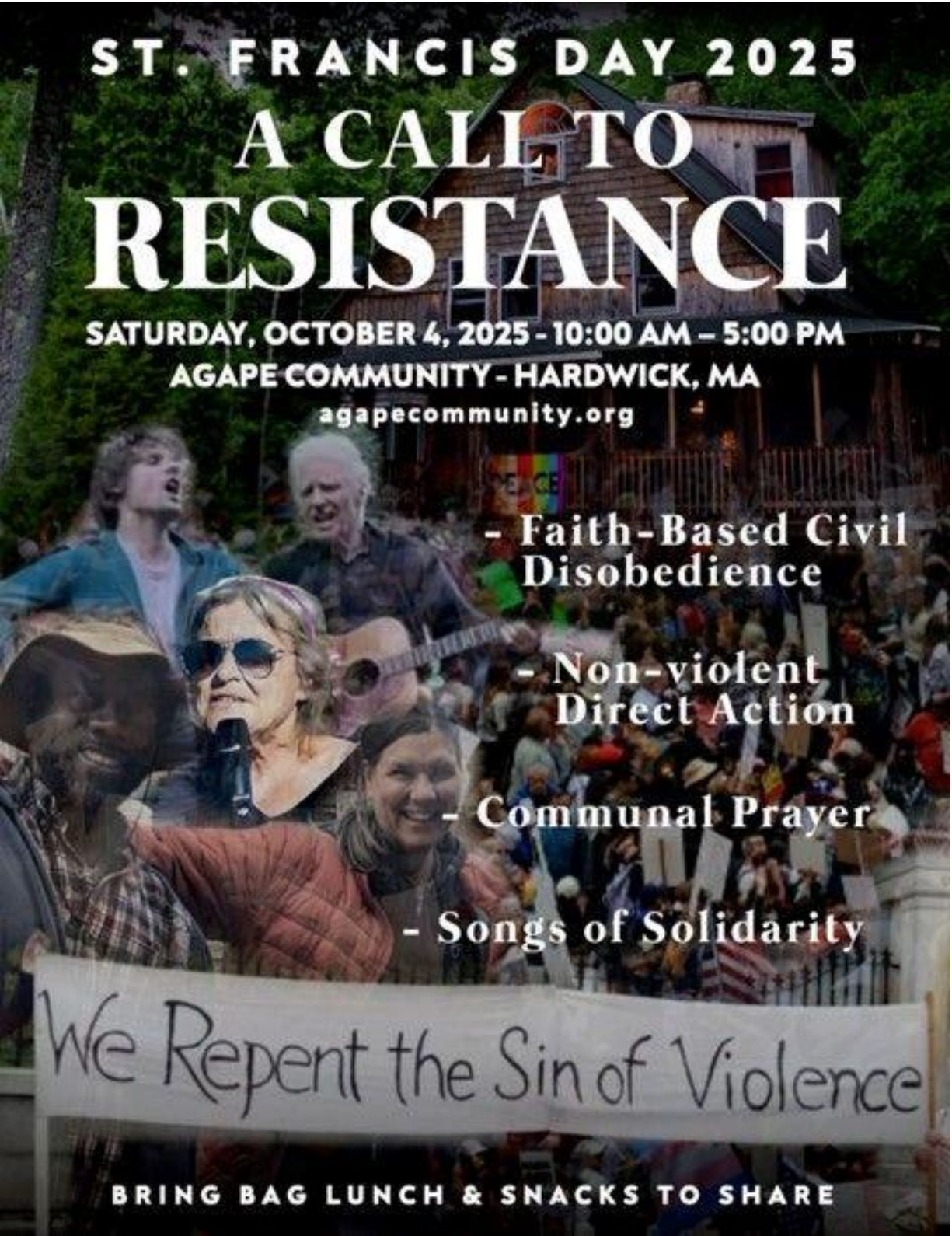
Mail Registration to:

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

*Scholarships available

www.paxchristima.org

For information: paxchristima@gmail.com



ST. FRANCIS DAY 2025
A CALL TO
RESISTANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AGAPE COMMUNITY - HARDWICK, MA

agapecommunity.org

**- Faith-Based Civil
Disobedience**

**- Non-violent
Direct Action**

- Communal Prayer

- Songs of Solidarity

We Repent the Sin of Violence

BRING BAG LUNCH & SNACKS TO SHARE

In Deep Gratitude

The Pax Christi MA board of directors extends our deepest appreciation to Philip Harak, who resigned from the board on July 30, 2025, for his 32 years of dedicated service to our organization. Thank you, Phil!

In Tribute to Charles Gobron (1944-2025)

[Editor's note: Pax Christi MA board members share memories of their beloved colleague. Charles' full obituary is here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/charles-gobron-obituary?id=58790108>]

Jeanne Allen: My memories of Charles were his welcoming nature, especially when the Board met in Natick and I was new to it. Also, he always radiated a positive energy, no doubt a reflection of his faith.

Phil Harak: I am proud and grateful to call Charles my colleague and friend. Of his many engaging qualities, his humor and openness of his grief over the loss of his son is most salient for me at this time in my life. Shortly after his son passed, he wrote to me, "I actually pass for sane these days which is remarkable because I am pretty much a total basket case!" His very being was tested by this devastating loss. Thank you, Charles, for your opening yourself to us, and for your perseverance in faith and love.

Mike Moran: In his zeal to get better acquainted with fellow PCMA board members, Charles once drove all the way from his home in Natick to meet me ("halfway," he said, though it was much closer to me in Palmer) for lunch at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Needless to say, we had a lovely time. May he rest in peace.

Fr. Rocco Puopolo: Charles was a force of nature...a force of love, commitment, service and peace. Through our shared service on the PCMA board, I got to know his family, his parish, his service to education in our area, and his commitment to peace. I was honored to attend the celebration of Life for Charles at his home parish in



At Fenway Park, a favorite venue (wickedlocal.com)

Natick. The Church was filled with people who truly were touched by his care and kindness. His daughter-in-law, Kelly, wife of Charles' son Chris, who died in 2022, gave a powerful eulogy that captured Charles' love of family, service to his parish of 50 years, baseball, and the education work he did, serving right up to the month he passed. He always found it hard to say no to requests that came his way. He made the ordinary extraordinary, in both big and small ways. The world is so

much a better place because of who Charles was in our midst. We are so grateful.

Nancy Carapezza: Charles' faith-filled existence and soul embodied his work for justice and peace. He shared his talents and gifts freely in every aspect of his life, reflected through his family and as an educator. He was generous, kind, sincere, positive, intelligent, and loving. Charles was an excellent listener and practical problem solver. He was a gifted decision maker, sharing advice and counsel. As one of the founders of PCMA, his leadership abilities shone brightly and remain with all of us. When a mutual friend heard of Charles' passing, her remark to me was 'He was a saint!' Yes, Charles, our love and gratitude for all you shared with us over these past decades.

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2024-2025

Co-Coordinator:	Co-Coordinator:
V	Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x
A	101 Summer Street
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A	MA 01746
N	202-997-8049
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Nancy Carapezza	Jeanne Allen
13 Red Barn Road	10 Sutton Place
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508-740-4500	413-270-5880
npez@comcast.net	(email page 12)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Sr.Linda Bessom (Somerville); Ann Capoccia (Newton); Irene Desharnais (Jamaica Plain); Pat Ferrone (Needham); Kathy Hubert (Walpole); Mike Moran (Palmer/Newsletter Editor) Sr.Rita Raboin (Somerville); Linda Taylor (North Attleboro); Bill Toller (Springfield);

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS are held virtually at 9:00 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next two will be on September 13 and December 13..

Local Groups

Berkshire P.C.

Carolyn Zablonty
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
Contact for meeting info

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.

Brian and Samantha Ashmankas
52 Mason Street
Worcester, MA 01610
brianashmankas86@gmail.com
Contact for more information

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
Danielle Poché
978-774-1050 Ext 350
dpoché@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: Virtual meetings are
noted with an asterisk*)*

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

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