



Threads of Peace from Pope Leo XIV

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

There is a consistent thread of hope that runs through much of Pope Leo's preaching and writings since his election 10 months ago. It is his vocal commitment to peace. He finds a way to include the need for peace in our world in almost every message he gives.

His first words when presented to the world as our new pope on that balcony last May were greetings of peace, rooted in the very peace of Christ Resurrected. He coined a very dynamic image of peace then, an unarmed and disarming peace - two ways in which he believes peace can be lived and engaged. And over these months, many of his speeches and reflections expand this dynamic image.

In his message for the 59th World Day of Peace on January 1st of this year, he explains what he means by unarmed and disarming peace: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/peace/documents/20251208-messaggio-pace.html>. He further expands these ideas on January 9th of this year, when he met with the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/january/documents/20260109-corpo-diplomatico.html>

My sharing here is meant only as a tease. Please take the time to read these two statements by Pope Leo and discover the depth and wisdom of his plea for peace.

Here are some musings on the New Year's Message for Peace. Jesus lived and witnessed a strong unarmed peace. "(H)is was an unarmed struggle in the midst of concrete historical, political and social circumstances. Christians must together bear prophetic



(image courtesy of Vatican News)

witness to this novelty, mindful of the tragedies in which they have too often been complicit." Unarmed peace can be fostered, as St. Augustine said, "not to burn bridges or persist in reproach, but to prefer listening and, where possible, engaging in discussions

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PCAN Redoubles Efforts to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

By Mike Moran, Editor

After the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists reset their Doomsday clock in January at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it's ever been to world destruction, and New START, the last remaining US/Russian nuclear arms control agreement, expired in February, PCAN (the Pax Christi New England Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) has redoubled our efforts to prevent the new nuclear arms race foreseen by some pundits with our laser focus on nuclear weapons abolition.

Since publishing a report (<https://tinyurl.com/3cb5muus>) last July on a survey we had just conducted of North American Catholics and others on their attitudes toward nuclear weapons (nearly half of 900+ respondents wanted to abolish them, and almost 85% felt great concern over the existential threat they posed), PCAN has built on these survey

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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.

Threads of Peace...

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with others.” Vatican II gave us a renewed awareness of the need for dialogue between the Church and the contemporary world.

Pope Leo explains disarming peace as a peace that begins in our hearts and then flows to the many challenges to peace in our world today. He quotes Pope John XXIII, for whom “integral disarmament” can only be achieved through renewal of the individual heart and mind. Pope Leo sees religions as guarding against the growing temptation to weaponize even thoughts and words. He urges all religious traditions to create communities of faith that can become “houses of peace,” where we learn to defuse hostility through dialogue, and to practice justice and forgiveness. He asks that political leaders work to achieve more humane relations among states, based on mutual trust, sincerity in negotiations and faithful fulfillment of obligations.

On January 9th Pope Leo, as a good Augustinian friar, frames his sharing with the wisdom of St. Augustine, particularly from *The City of God*. There he speaks of the two cities - the eternal city of God, marked by God’s unconditional love, and the earthly city, the temporary dwelling place where human beings live until death. These cities coexist, and the role of Christians is to dwell in the earthly city with hearts and minds turned toward the heavenly city. While living in the earthly city, we seek to apply Christian ethics to civil government. Leo next speaks of a weakening of multilateralism: a diplomacy that promotes dialogue and seeks

consensus is being replaced by a diplomacy based on force. He notes that even language is no longer a means to know and encounter one another; it is becoming a weapon with which to deceive or to strike and offend opponents. Next, he comments on the restriction of fundamental human rights, starting with freedom of conscience.

He then addresses what he calls the mentality of confrontation. War is content with destruction. Peace requires continuous and patient efforts of construction by everyone as well as constant vigilance.

He ends by affirming, as did Augustine, that peace is the aim of our good: “peacemaking requires the humility to live truthfully and the courage to forgive.”

-Fr. Rocco is PCMA Coordinator.

PCAN Redoubles...

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results in several ways

First, we've established a "Next Steps" team, which is planning two projects for 2026. The first is a series of four Zoom “mini summits” by late spring, with 15-20 leaders in the Catholic movement to abolish nuclear weapons, geared to an audience mainly of their group members, on how best to activate the world’s 1.4 billion Catholics to work for nuclear abolition. The second is to sponsor an essay contest with prizes in the fall for students in Catholic high schools. If you are a teacher at that level who would like to help us out, please contact Peter or Mike (see below).

Second, we're seeking to broaden our influence by collaboration with several allies. The first is Pax Christi International, which now includes PCAN in meetings of its Nuclear Disarmament Working Group. The second is our namesake, ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), which approved our application to become an ICAN partner several months ago.

Third, we're deepening our connection to the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which supported our 2025 survey. After the departure of our initial staff contact person, Dr. Alessio Pecorario, we have briefed his successor in that role, Dr. Christine Jeangey, and our survey was just posted on the Dicastery's website: <https://tinyurl.com/2rnyfsc>

Finally, we're always trying to expand our membership base, and grow our member numbers, beyond our New England roots. We now have PCAN members in such other states as New Mexico, Ohio, and Washington. If you'd like to join our work for a world without nuclear weapons, contact: Peter Metz, PCAN chair (pmetz@alum.mit.edu), or Mike Moran, PCAN communication director (moran3@comcast.net).

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

Reflections on Time in Hell: 3 Months in Occupied Palestine

By Linden Jenkins

I've been asked to share two or three highlights from my time in Palestine, which I have been trying to do in the 17 (and counting) talks I've given since March last year, entitled "Pilgrimage to Palestine, Pilgrimage to Home: A Report Back". Besides the abiding deep faith and resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of 100+ years of incursion, occupation and genocidal apartheid, the biggest highlights for me have been discovery and deepening recognition of the



With Black Faith leaders Nov 2024 (all photos courtesy of Linden)

realities embodied by the phrase "settler-colonial projects" and the well-camouflaged impacts and implications of the reality that the so-called U.S. is also a settler-colonial project that has been in process for over 500 years, while the one in process in so-called "Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories" has been in process for 100+ years.

These two and other such projects are best viewed through the lenses of The Chosen People-Promised

Land narratives extended by the Doctrine of Christian Domination, sometimes euphemistically called the Doctrine of (Christian) Discovery, that have constituted the origin stories and belief systems governing western "civilization's" understanding and insistence on its inevitable destiny as the apex of possible life forms.



Silwan refugee camp in occupied East Jerusalem

These systems of mythology are incarnated in our legal system, beginning in the decisions of the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and articulated by the same court as recently as Ruth Bader Ginsburg's majority Supreme Court decision in the 2005 case, *The City of Sherrill NY vs. The Oneida Nation*, where subjugation and conquest are named as the legitimate sources of property rights.

These belief systems have their sources in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures beginning in the early verses of the book of Genesis, continuing through Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel, Joshua, the Psalms, and the Book of Revelation, among others. See Lenape lawyer Steven Newcomb's *Pagans in the Promised Land*.

The systematic, creative and energetic exercises of cruelty we white people are seeing now in the U.S. have in fact existed here for non-white people since Europeans first set foot here. Going to Palestine opened my eyes to the

ways they are skillfully hidden and to the boomerang effect of colonial violence that was first described in the 1950 essay by Martinican philosopher and poet Aime Cesaire, "Discourse on Colonialism," available free online and referenced by Noura Erakat in the February 2025 Boston Review.

As a follower of Jesus and a member of both the Quaker and Catholic communities, I find it hard to bear the pain (despite the extraordinary beauty, and integrity there) of accompanying Palestinians under attack in their homeland made possible only by our tax dollars and the long history of the distortions of Jesus' life and teachings. These are the relevant highlights of my time in Palestine.



Shops closed and shuttered in Hebron, occupied West Bank.

While carrying these messages as a living ministry I lately see that hope is a fruit of humility. Stepping stones to humility for me these days are these 3 truths I know "experimentally" as Quakers have said: 1) Everything changes; 2) We are always surprised by these changes; 3) God is good.

-Linden is a new PCMA board member (see also page 11).

The Search

By Peter Kakos, Northampton,
MA, January 3, 2026

Little did they know
Their maimed father's order for
them
To gather up scraps for fire,
To fend off death's bitter night,
In an abandoned shell,
Of an apartment in ruins-
Would be Jum'a and Fadi's last
chore.

Barehandedly uncovering through
the rubble,
A buried grandfather's shattered
chair;
Or a mother's collapsed dresser;
Or a once jovial uncle's shattered
card table-

Little did they know
They had crossed Israel's ever
changing "yellow" line, at once
alerting
The drones of the beasts to trace
their every step.

Little did they know,
Out of nowhere from above
Humming their deafening chant,
The black-winged Predators would
appear
Madly firing upon the children of
earth.

And little did their anxious father
know:

"Why was it taking them so
long?"

May he *hear* his children of
heaven's assurance:

*Don't be sad, Papa.
What Aunt Julian tells us is true!
We truly are happy; we truly are
well;
And all will be well.*

*Jum'a, 8; Fadi, 11. November,
2025, Gaza City
-Peter Kakos is a UCC minister.*

US Priests' Letter to USCCB on "Board of Peace"

Dear Archbishop Coakley,

We write to you as members of
Priests Against Genocide USA,
part of a broad international
network that includes 2,200 priests
from 58 countries, along with 22
bishops, archbishops, and two
cardinals. As two million
Palestinian people in Gaza
continue to cry out for mercy, we
humbly appeal to the Catholic
leadership in the United States to
speak with moral clarity and to
bear courageous witness to peace
and justice. Against this backdrop,
the convening of President
Trump's so-called "Board of
Peace" in Washington, D.C. on
February 19 underscores the urgent
need for our Church's prophetic
voice.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa,
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has
already raised grave concerns,
describing the Board of Peace as
*"an initiative that appears to be
primarily aimed at protecting the
interests of the major powers,
without real recognition of the
Palestinian people and their
rights."* He reminds us that *"Christ
is not absent from Gaza. He is
there, crucified in the wounded,
buried under the rubble, and yet
present in every act of mercy,
every candle in the darkness, every
hand extended to the suffering."*

We therefore ask you, in a spirit of
prayer and fidelity to the Gospel,
to help form the conscience of our
nation regarding this so-called
"Board of Peace" and to inspire all
people of goodwill to become
instruments of authentic peace...

Read the full letter here:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DU3gegPIIps/>

Holy Cross P.C.

Mart Kelly, Associate Chaplain

Pax Christi at Holy Cross has had
a very active few months and have
taken a more public stance in
support of immigrants. In
November, Pax students played an
integral role in planning an
Interfaith Witness for Migrants and
Refugees in downtown Worcester.
Close to 100 students joined
community members from many
faith traditions in a shared prayer
experience and public witness at
City Hall to call attention to the
unjust immigration enforcement
taking place in our country. Just a
week later, Pax students took part
in a campus protest against
allowing the Department of
Homeland Security to recruit on
campus. The College has now
committed to not inviting DHS
representatives back to campus.



At our December meeting, we
heard from representatives
from the LGBT Asylum Task
Force in Worcester to learn about
their work, and as the new
semester began in January, about
20 students gathered at the VA
Clinic in Worcester at a vigil to
honor the life of Alex Pretti and to
call for justice and accountability.

St. John's Prep P.C.

By Danielle Poché

We paused our Pax Christi club this year to reevaluate how to better encourage participation. Please keep us on your list because we will be resuming the club later this spring or next school year in the fall.

Christmas Reverence of a Different Sort

By Pat Ferrone

I'm not sure how it all began, but 8 years ago, the Pax Christi group at St. Susanna, which had been tracking mass shootings all year (346), decided to bring the reality of gun violence writ large to the Christmas creche. Fourteen signs were painted, each naming a different shooting site, and indicating the number of people killed or wounded. We hoped to bring the heart of the gospel of love to bear on current issues to encourage reflection and faith-based action that firmly declared our Christian rejection of a culture deeply addicted to violence.

Year followed year. Each presented realities about which we could not remain silent: the despair of immigrants rounded up and caged; the human causal links to global deterioration and climate change; the "Doomsday Clock" and the threat of global annihilation from a nuclear exchange, and this year, the creche without Jesus, Mary and Joseph, evoking the ubiquitous, fearful presence of ICE in all 50 states.

The signage was simple and declarative: "I.C.E. Was Here." Below, however, a smaller sign

gave assurance that "The Holy Family is safe in The Sanctuary of our Church. If you see I.C.E. Please call LUCE..."

And in front of the altar, in full view of our community, a simple nativity scene, with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, invited quiet reverence - our human vulnerability in sync with that of the infant. At the same time, the larger outdoor display suggested we can hold both the beauty of the traditional symbol of Love incarnate (deeply embedded in our hearts) and the demands of the nonviolent gospel espoused by Jesus. Only the alchemy of Love, melded with creative resistance, seems capable of transforming the degrading lovelessness and tyranny that is alive in our land.



The impact of our decision to take Jesus seriously was generally supported by parishioners of St. Susanna, as well as people around the US and the world. It brought new people through our doors, grateful that a faith community exhibited courage by publicly addressing the horrendous display of rampant power and cruelty by the masked men of ICE, acting on behalf of our government.

One Facebook post, in response to the Boston Archdiocese's condemnation of the creche as "divisive political messaging," said, "Had Jesus come today, He and Mary and Joseph would have been dragged out of their car,

thrown to the ground, possibly tear gassed, had their hands zip tied and carried off to a detention center...and ultimately (without due process) placed in shackles on a plane to their country of origin." However, some people objected to what they considered a sacrilegious affront to precious symbols, and to Jesus Himself. Angry calls and emails came in.

When and where dialogue was possible, it was welcomed. In fact, Fr. Steve Josoma, Pastor, will soon welcome a conversation with Archbishop Richard Henning. Another promising development came with a supportive meeting of Dedham clergy. Together, a series of Lenten services is being planned by the Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, and Unitarian Universalist faith communities. Clergy will exchange pulpits as we meet in different churches for four weeks. We will apply Micah 6:8 to the challenges of injustice and violence raised this year: "And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

-Pat is a PCMA board member and leads St. Susanna Pax Christi.

This Little Light of Mine I'm Gonna Let It Shine

By Jane Virgilio and Bill Toller

On a very cold January night, over sixty brave souls gathered at Mary, Mother of Hope Church in Springfield for Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. program, the 12th year this group has sponsored a program honoring the legacy of Dr. King. This year's theme was "Living the Gospel with Dr. Martin Luther King and Sister Dr. Thea Bowman." The

evening was co-sponsored by Pax Christi Western MA and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

After a warm welcome from Jane Virgilio, Campaign Nonviolence chair, Bill Toller introduced our keynote speaker, Sister Melinda Pellerin, SSJ. Sr. Melinda, the only African American SSJ, introduced us to Sr. Thea (1937-1990), a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration who grew up in Mississippi and spent her entire life as a teacher and a dynamic speaker on the gifts of the African American community. Her legacy is marked by her profound impact on the Catholic Church, challenging the Church's history of racial exclusion.



Sister Melinda as Sister Thea (photo courtesy of Bill Toller)

Sr. Melinda dressed in the manner of Sr. Thea, sang as Sr. Thea did in her teaching and talks, and truly touched the hearts and minds of all those present throughout her 45-minute presentation. Some of our personal highlights were her singing of "There is a Balm in Gilead" and "This Little Light of Mine" as well as her description of her encounter with Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes" and the powerful way she inspired the Catholic Bishops in 1989 to stand, lock arms, and sing, "We Shall Overcome" just months before her death from cancer in 1990.

We had planned to show the documentary on her life, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9oOa2iOwck>), but, frankly, it would have been anti-climactic after Sr. Melinda's inspiring and heartfelt presentation by Sister Melinda. Her gifts as a former Teacher of the Year were never more evident, and many of us believe this presentation should be shared in other venues.

We are fortunate that Sr. Annette McDermott recorded it, and we hope it can be shared widely in the coming weeks and months.

-Jane chairs Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence, and Bill is a PCMA board member.

Resistance Builds Community at Agape

Mike Moran, Editor

Agape's 36th annual St. Francis Day gathering on October 4, 2025, "A Call to Resistance," attracted 200 upbeat, multi-generational attendees on a perfect weather day.

Featuring prayer, music, and only a few speakers, the program, planned and mostly presented by the young generation of Agape leaders, focused for most of the day on two breakout sessions for all present, both introduced by organizer Jeanelle Wheeler. In the first, we discussed how we process our inner feelings about the current turmoil in our divided society. In the second, we channeled those feelings into options for nonviolent action to heal that divide.

After an opening prayer by Fr. Richard Trainor (a "Catholic call to peacemaking"), organizer Nathan Oglesby led us in procession to the Agape tent, singing "Make Me a Channel of

Your Peace," attributed to Agape patron St. Francis of Assisi. Welcoming remarks by Nathan and fellow organizer Jim Robinson (who invoked St. Francis's "wood-wide web" of life) preceded brief but cogent calls by Agape co-founders Suzanne and Brayton Shanley to "reclaim our nonviolent lineage" and build community that can resist and replace the fear-based world of Donald Trump.

As the dozen or so members of my Group 7 shared our fears and concerns as well as people and groups we've found inspirational in 2025, Nathan, our nimble facilitator, helped us enrich our sharing and learning through "intergenerational, integrational, and informational" lenses.



Brayton speaks at St. Francis Day (photo courtesy of Jim Robinson)

Lunchtime mingling and a short but compelling presentation by organizers Edgar Hayes and Ann Rader on finding "community in nature" at their Freedom Farm Community in upstate New York smoothed the transition between breakout sessions.

Members of all 15 breakout groups, meeting around the lush Agape grounds, resolved to build a "community of communities" by staying in touch and taking inspiration from each other's initiatives. We ended the day feeling energized, encouraged, and empowered.

Experiencing Art with Brother Mickey McGrath

By Jeanne Allen

What do space photos from the Webb telescope, the meanings of flowers, church history and Einstein's messy desk have in common? They are some of the elements that Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS used to draw us into a day of "Peacemaking Through Turbulent Times; Art, Passion and Purpose," the Pax Christi Massachusetts Annual Assembly on October 18, 2025. Thirty+ peacemakers sacrificed a beautiful fall Saturday to attend the event, in person and virtually.

Brother Mickey is an experience more than an instructor. He developed his conviction of art as a means of prayerful contemplation intertwined with social justice principles. He quoted many saints and spiritual writers, from Francis of Assisi ("great saints are both courageous and creative") to Francis de Sales ("ignore the barking of the dogs and keep going"), and Pope Leo XIV ("peace is built on the foundation of justice") to Ilia Delio ("all creation is oozing God") and many more ... always accompanied by his art. Albert Einstein, Marian Anderson, St. Oscar Romero, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, and Servants of God Dorothy Day and Thea Bowman were modern spiritual leaders he focused on.

As part of our participation in "No Kings" day—our event date was set before the multiple national actions were scheduled—we took a group photo to share. Pat Ferrone also distributed colorful paper clips with an explanation of how they have become a mark of resistance to authoritarianism. After lunch we

held our annual business meeting with a summary of the year's activities, treasurer's report, and reports from our two working...

Continue reading and see photos: <https://paxchristima.org/past-events/>

Book Reviews

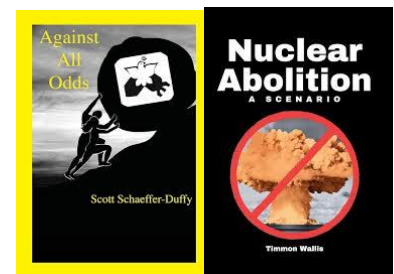
By Mike Moran. Editor Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, *Against All Odds* (Haley's, 2025); Timmon Wallis, *Nuclear Abolition: A Scenario* (Indispensable Press, 2025).

In *Nuclear Abolition* (see below), Timmon Wallis cites General Electric as a company which stopped making nuclear weapon parts due to popular pressure in the 1980s. In *Against All Odds*, Worcester-based Catholic Worker Scott Schaeffer-Duffy tells the colorful and compelling story of a simultaneous (1981-1989) local campaign with similar results at a GTE plant in Westborough, MA, which was building the command, control, and communications system for the new MX missile.

Scott brings to the task his perspective as a full participant in most of the weekly vigils and occasional acts of nonviolent civil disobedience launched by the Worcester County Coalition for Disarmament, including several brief periods of imprisonment. First-hand documentation through photos, newspaper articles, and letters against the backdrop of daily life (Scott and Claire marry and have their first two children during this period) deepens Scott's vivid portraits of fellow protestors, law enforcement personnel, and community supporters, including Catholic hierarchy. Many Pax Christi members will remember deceased protestors like protean

Assumption College professor Mike True, a co-founder of Pax Christi MA, and the indomitable Sue Malone, a Westborough resident and later Pax Christi MA coordinator.

The fitting climax occurs when a conflicted Worcester judge allows five defendants (including Scott) to use the necessity defense in their civil disobedience trial and a jury that included a state police officer (who later told Scott he was the first juror to call for acquittal) finds them all not guilty. Soon afterward, the Soviet Union collapsed, the MX missile program was cancelled, and the GTE plant closed. Who knows what 2026 could bring, against all odds?



Not nearly as full of technical charts and tables as its predecessor, *Warheads to Windmills*, Timmon Wallis's *Nuclear Abolition: A Scenario*, is an even more direct rejoinder to Annie Jacobsen's *Nuclear War: A Scenario*, from its title to its helpful factual sidebars and its thriller-style timeline, here extended from 72 hours to perhaps several years (both books were reviewed here in Vol. 31, No. 1).

This scenario begins with actual campaigns of popular pressure on nuclear weapons companies, mainly American, and their investors (including banks), through boycotts, divestment, and shaming, not only to stop building these weapons but to work with citizens in urging the US to join 95 other countries to date (most of the world's people) in signing the 2017

UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As more countries sign the TPNW, the above companies lose more profit potential. As more US cities and towns divest from nuclear weapons (e.g., Northampton, MA; New York City) and pass "Back from the Brink" resolutions to abolish them (68 so far), US officials feel more pressure to act.

In imagining how more such actions could plausibly escalate and inspire others, Wallis highlights the insidious power of almost unlimited campaign funding from companies to buy and sell US elected officials. He tracks progress toward the goal of total nuclear abolition by moving the hands of the Doomsday Clock (see page 1) back from midnight. This book joins *Against All Odds* (see above) in making an urgent case for nonviolent anti-corporate action, and the "Trump Card" epilogue is a welcome bonus.

Rev. John F. Tuohey, PhD., *Pope Paul VI and His Quest for Peace: 1963-1978* (Xlibris, 2024); *The Promise of World Peace* (Baha'i World Center, 1985).

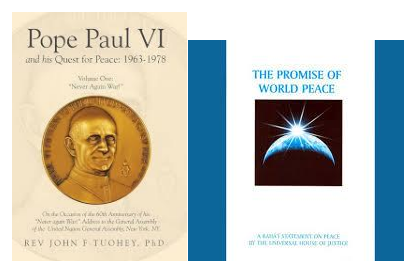
A priest of the Springfield diocese, Fr. John has written in two volumes an enlightening study of Pope Paul VI's strong focus on the issue of peace during his fifteen-year papacy. It was published last year "On the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of His 'Never again War!' Address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, NY."

That famous address, delivered on October 4, 1965, along with other events during the 14 hours the Pope spent in New York that day, including a brief meeting with US President Johnson, is a highlight of

Volume One, which also addresses Fr. Giovanni "Battista" Montini's pre-papal experience as a Vatican diplomat before and during World War II, a tense second meeting with Johnson in 1967 about the war in Vietnam, and Pope Paul's leadership of the Second Vatican council to a successful close in 1965. Volume Two presents detailed commentaries on and historical background for all eleven "World Day of Peace" messages that Pope Paul issued between 1968 and 1978, inaugurating a tradition that has been faithfully continued by all his successors. The full text of these messages is readily available on the Vatican website:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/messages/peace.html>

The Pax Christi Western MA local group is the proud recipient of a gift copy presented and inscribed to us by Fr. John. Since we meet only virtually, I bring this copy to every Pax Christi MA or related gathering I attend. labeled "display copy," for perusal only there on site. These two volumes are especially valuable for their insights into the power of papal "World Day of Peace" messages.



Last fall I was privileged to spend an hour plus weekly in eight Zoom conversations with three congenial Baha'i friends I met through Greater Springfield Campaign Nonviolence about this 1985 letter to "the peoples of the world" from the Universal House of Justice, the

governing body of the worldwide Baha'i community. Its 7-8 million members across the globe share the vision of its founder in 19th-century Persia, the prophet Baha'u'llah, that "[T]he earth is one country and mankind its citizens."

The letter - published online (<https://www.bahaiebooks.org/publications/promiseworldpeace/>) and as a booklet with helpful commentary - praises 20th-century human experience with international organizations like the League of Nations and the United Nations as steps toward the supranational world government it envisions. It also identifies racism, sexism, materialism, militarism, nationalism, and a "paralysis of will" rooted in a "reluctance to...subordinat[e] national self-interest to the demands of world order" as obstacles to achieving this goal and the "Most Great Peace" that would eventually accompany it. Recommended solutions include: greater trust in both religion and science; peace understood as a "spiritual principle" rather than pure pragmatism; and universal education to develop the sense of "unity in diversity" which would allow us to see ourselves as one human family.

From these solutions my friends and I also derived: respect for the wisdom of indigenous peoples, whose cultural knowledge can facilitate a more peaceful world; nonviolent conflict resolution; and education in genetics (one of our group, a geneticist herself, noted that people everywhere are "99% the same"). *The Promise of World Peace* will inspire readers of all faith backgrounds to start building peace by seeking the common good. For follow-up, contact Mila: milapeace@gmail.com

2026 Pax Christi Massachusetts Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2026

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

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2026.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email: moran3@comcast.net)

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

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

2026 Pax Christi Massachusetts John Leary Youth Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2026

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

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

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2026.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email: moran3@comcast.net)

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

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



Pax Christi

2026 Spring Retreat



Gospel Nonviolence in a Perilous Time

**Saturday, April 11, 2026
Mary Mother of Hope Parish,
840 Page Blvd, Springfield MA**

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

Pax Christi Massachusetts invites Marie Dennis to return to us and lead us in our Spring Retreat entitled “Gospel Nonviolence in a Perilous Time.” Marie is the senior program director of Pax Christi International’s Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. She was a member of the Pax Christi International board from 1999 to 2019 and co-president from 2007 to 2019. She is a Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and was named a Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace in 2022.

Marie worked for the Maryknoll Missioners from 1989 to 2012, including 15 years as director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. She holds a master’s degree in moral theology from Washington Theological Union and honorary doctorates from Trinity Washington University and Alvernia University. She is a Secular Franciscan, author or co-author of seven books, including *Oscar Romero: Reflections on His Life and Writings* and *St. Francis and the Foolishness of God*, editor of *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence*, and co-editor of *Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World*. She is a lay woman, a mother of six, a grandmother and a great grandmother. She is a board member of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners and was the *National Catholic Reporter’s* Person of the Year in 2016.

We could not have found a better person to lead us in this very timely topic. Come and Join us!

+++++Registration Form+++++ clip and return

Name _____ Street Address _____
City/State _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Donation* \$45.00 (including lunch) High School and College Students with ID Free

I am a retreat sponsor and will donate an additional tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to help defray the cost of the Retreat.

To register click here and follow the instructions

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SRTccjLBhWY70YVOMVpfeKvjDI9kOX2rld9VdkukuDI/edit?pli=1>

Or mail this registration and check, made out to “Pax Christi MA” to:

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

Co-sponsored by the *Agape Community* & *St Susanna Parish, Dedham*

Coming Agape Events

*March 14, 5-7 pm (at Agape):
 -St. Brigid Night
 *April 3. 1-3 pm: Stations of the Cross, State House, Boston
 *April 4, 5-7 pm (at Agape):
 -Easter Vigil & potluck
 2062 Greenwich Rd. Hardwick, MA 01082 / (413) 967-9369
www.agapecommunity.org

Welcome, New Board Members!

Linden Jenkins was born in Chicago but grew up in the Northeast. After several years of vagabonding across the world, she earned an undergraduate degree from Columbia University in philosophy and anthropology. A social justice activist since 1969, faith has been the fulcrum of her life since 1978, when she had a direct encounter with Jesus. In



New Hampshire, Linden became a Quaker, lawyer, mother, and grandmother, and started a restorative justice nonprofit. After moving to the Boston area to become the head of Quakers in New England, she took a Rite of Initiation for Christian Adults class, joined St. Cecilia parish (Boston) in 2015, and now worships at St. Susanna parish (Dedham). She

currently writes and speaks about three months she spent in Palestine in 2024. Linden is grateful to be among us.

Robert Shine (he/him) is executive director of the Pax Christi International Fund for Peace. Originally from Massachusetts, he previously served on Pax Christi USA's National Council, including two years as chair, and co-founded the organization's Young Adult Caucus. Professionally, Bob advocated for LGBTQ+



Catholics at New Ways Ministry from 2012-2024, including seven years as Associate Director. He is author of The Work of God's Hands, Pax Christi USA's 2017 Advent booklet, and A Home for All: A Catholic Call for LGBTQ Non-Discrimination, and has theology degrees from Boston College and The Catholic University of America.

Nancy Sosnowski works with the Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) in Lynn, MA on housing justice, especially rent stabilization, police reform and immigrant rights. She was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Thailand (1991-1995), developing education programs at the Bangkok Immigration



Detention Center for children incarcerated with their mothers. Nancy holds a Doctorate in International Education from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst (1996-2002), where she designed and taught courses on multicultural and diversity education. In 2022 she became an Associate with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur East West province in Ipswich, MA, conducting workshops and days of prayer for Sisters and Associates. Nancy was a member of Pax Christi Beverly, MA, which recently disbanded after 23 years.

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2025-2026

<u>Coordinator:</u> Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x 101 Summer Street Holliston MA 01746 202-997-8049 rndpsx@hotmail.com	<u>Secretary:</u> Jeanne Allen 10 Sutton Place Easthampton MA 01027 413-270-5880 jallen10sp@gmail.com
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<u>Treasurer:</u> Nancy Carapezza 13 Red Barn Road Wayland MA 01778 508-740-4500 npez@comcast.net	<u>Newsletter Editor:</u> Mike Moran 135 Shearer Street Palmer MA 01069 413-283-5716 moran3@comcast.net
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OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Sr. Linda Bessom	(Somerville)
Irene Deshamais	(Jamaica Plain)
Pat Ferrone	(Needham)
Kathy Hubert	(Walpole)
Linden Jenkins	(Cambridge)
Bob Shine	(Boston)
Nancy Sosnowski	(Swampscott)
Linda Taylor	(North Attleboro)
Bill Toller	(Springfield)

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

are held virtually on Saturdays at 9:00 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next two will be held on March 14th and June 13th.

Local Groups

Berkshire P.C.

Carolyn Zablontny
P.O. Box 14
Mill River, MA 01244
berkshire.pax.christi@gmail.com
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
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: 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

paxchristima@gmail.com
www.paxchristima.org