Pax Christi Massachusetts 2026 Peacemaker Award

JOHN LEARY YOUTH PEACEMAKER AWARD

Pax Christi at the College of the Holy Cross

Student Chaper, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester

From Advisor Marty Kelly's acceptance remarks at the 2026 Assembly in October:

When we told students very recently about this award, they were very moved and very surprised that anyone take anyone would take notice of what they were doing--that people outside of the college would would have known that they were doing their little things in their little corner of the world for justice and for peace. So we are so grateful for the recognition…for 40 years at Holy Cross, one night a week we gather and we pray and we talk about the issues of importance in the world and we do our best to take action and to bring that out of the room onto the campus into the city of Worcester in different ways. So we're grateful for the support of of Pax Christi Massachusetts, Pax Christi USA and their support of young adults on seeking peace…The meetings can be heavy in terms of topic but there's always smiles, there's joy, there's laughter. Students come in we may never have seen before, and they get a great welcome. So that's important to keep the joy as part of this work as well and the students have done that for me. So we honor the memory of John Leary in gratitude for this award and grateful for the recognition. Thank you.

Pax Christi at the College of the Holy Cross' nomination, as submitted by Sister Jane Morrissey, SSJ:

From reading the annual updates in recent issues of the Pax Christi MA newsletter by Marty Kelly and members of this college group on their activities, I've been impressed by how much they've accomplished on their own campus (e.g., getting the College to dis-invite the US Department of Homeland Security from recruiting on campus), in their local Worcester community (supporting immigrants and other residents in need), and beyond (participation in Ignatian spirituality events with students from other Jesuit colleges).

Since my early days in leadership of Pax Christi MA in the 1990s, I've been aware of their dedication to the goals and ideals of Pax Christi, including service on the PCMA board of directors and participation in occasional board meetings at Holy Cross.

Reminded that they received this award once before, in 1996, I believe it's high time for them to receive it again now, 30 years later.