Pax Christi Massachusetts 2026 Peacemaker Award

PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Sister Clare Carter

Buddhist Monk, Peace Pagoda,
Nipponzan Myohoji Branch, Leverett, MA

From Sister Clare's acceptance remarks at the 2026 Assembly in October:
There was an unbelievable conversion of soul that happened with Father George Zabelka…he organized a walk from the Trident Submarine Base on the Puget Sound all the way to Bethlehem. We know some people who joined that walk...We had a conference that he came to and he did say that the world religions all had the teaching we can't take the life of another person. We are forbidden that by all these teachings. So, war is finished. You know, weapons finished. The civilization of love which you have referred to has to come.*

Sister Clare's nomination, as submitted by Jeanne Allen, PCMA Board of Directors/Secretary:

Sister Clare Carter is a quintessential peacemaker. In her sandals and saffron robes, she brings a quiet presence and glowing spirit to every peace event in which she participates.

Sister is a Buddhist monk at the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA of the Nipponzan Myohoji branch. Their charism is worldwide pilgrimage for the abolition of nuclear weapons, as well as tending the land and offering hospitality to individuals and groups of any faith.

Sister Clare has participated in many walks in western Massachusetts and across the globe. As a delegate of her community, she works to make the peace constitution of Japan known to others in Asia. She has traveled to Japan and Panama to create a peace consciousness, and of course works on that here, as well.

When Sister Clare and the other monks are present, their prayers and drums focus the mind and heart on peace. Their drumbeats of peace are especially powerful, resonating with our heartbeats, and counteracting the clamor of war.

Her sandals have logged many miles as she has dedicated her life to bringing peace to our world.

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* George Zabelka was the Army chaplain who blessed the 1945 U.S. atomic bombers; he subsequently became a lifelong peace advocate.