Years ago when I sat in a clandestine cell witnessing the violence inflicted on other human beings, I thought to myself—if I survive, never again will I have to bear witness to anything that approximates so great a horror as this. But I was wrong.

Today, when I step back and peer at the world around me, I realize that what I saw in that prison cell is no different from what I see on the news, what I read in the daily papers and what I hear on the radio. I did not understand then that we were surrounded by a culture of violence—violence so ably fomented by war, greed, hatred, fear, and indifference.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. drone attacks kill via remote control those who we are told are our enemy—but the truth is that they also kill innocent civilians indiscriminately and in large numbers. These victims are the “collateral damage” as we have been taught to say.

Joining them in death, are those who return home to die. For example, there is the one who came home surviving three tours of duty, a decorated Marine, who sought the help that he knew he badly needed. Time and again, he went to that office for counseling. But its doors were always closed. And so, he settled the matter himself—one bullet and no more pain.

Then there is Haiti. The earthquake turned into what for so many has been a disaster of unmet needs. The situation remains dire. Nearly 1.3 million people are living in tents, without security, dignity or regular access to clean water, food or shelter. Furthermore, in squalid refugee camps, rape stalks women—including girls as young as two. “Sexual assaults are a daily occurrence,” said Yolande Bazais, vice-president of an aid organization for rape victims.

In the deserts of Arizona, immigrants die of thirst while those who would leave jugs of water to save them are threatened with prosecution. And while capital flies freely across borders, labor must be stopped at their edge.

Other innocent bystanders simply wishing to speak to their representative on a peaceful street corner in Tucson are gunned down. Once again, a troubled mind and a weapon of death come together to strike down the innocent.

And in Guantanamo, detainees are disappeared in plain sight. They remain there without charges—without trial. We detain them and now, we do not know what to do with them. Fifty years from now we will recognize this travesty for what it is, but fifty years from now, they very well may all be dead—and it won’t matter anymore.

Is it because this violence is so great that we focus only briefly on any single instance of it? We notice in passing the dead, the wounded, the broken, the pain and the weeping. And then, we move on to another such “event.” Do we not become hardened just a bit as we pass from one violent act to another?

A friend recounts that the Vietnam War was on at dinnertime. By that he meant he and his family watched the television news as they ate dinner. In the early part of that war, he says, some horror would stop

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Pax Christi Minnesota mourns the loss of long-time leader Sister Timothy Kirby

Sister Timothy Kirby, a long-time leader in Pax Christi Minnesota, passed away in late December. She was 92 years-old. In recent years, Sr. Timothy acted as the Pax Christi contact for the Duluth diocese and was a member of Pax Christi Minnesota’s state council. She lived at the monastery at the College of St. Scholastica and had been a “beautiful presence” there for 70 years. The photo that appeared along with a story about her in the Duluth News Tribune shortly after her death had her standing out in front of the Federal Prison Camp where she had volunteered for over 20 years, leading bible study and worship services weekly.

Frank Cordaro, an anti-nuclear activist from Des Moines, got to know Sr. Timothy when he spent 6 months at the Duluth Federal Prison Camp in 2002 for an act of civil disobedience. “On Sunday morning, we have a Catholic communion service lead by Sr. Timothy. Sr. Timothy is a sheer delight... A long time member of Pax Christi, she embodies the best of what a Catholic Religious feminist is all about... After each service, I just hugged her and thanked her for her good words...”

Sr. Timothy was laid to rest on January 12.

Anne Richter, long-time member of Pax Christi Florida and co-coordinator of Pax Christi Tampa Bay, is currently in Haiti as part of a medical team. Included on her team is David Tillias who is the brother of Pax Christi Haiti program director Daniel Tillias. While in Haiti, Anne was able to meet with Daniel and share some of the work Pax Christi Haiti has undertaken since the earthquake last year. “On the way back we had breakfast with Daniel Tillias with Pax Christi-Haiti. They have been able to obtain some grants from the Mennonites to help with the purchase of a ‘peace bus’ for their work with the children in Cite Soleil,” Anne writes. “Daniel also said that he is doing some work with Amnesty International.”

Pax Christi NE Pennsylvania continues working for just treatment of prisoners

Pax Christi Northeastern Pennsylvania has been working in support of the just treatment of prisoners at Lackawanna County prison for several years now. In 2007 they issued a report, “A Review of the Quality Of Health Care at the Lackawanna County Prison” (available at: http://www.aclupusa.org/downloads/PaxChristiReport.pdf) for which local group coordinator Joseph Rogan was initially sued by Correctional Care Inc, the company that provided medical care at the prison. (The suit was eventually dropped.) In December, members of the group worked to get one of their own, Fr. Bill Pickard, reinstated as a minister to the inmates. Fr. Pickard has spent 26 years ministering to inmates, former inmates, and their families, and had been banned for nebulous reasons by the prison’s warden, who recently resigned. Pax Christi Northeastern Pennsylvania sent a letter to the new warden asking that Fr. Pickard’s ban be lifted and he be allowed to continue his ministry.

Pax Christi Metro-DC co-sponsors event commemorating 20 years of war in Iraq

On January 15, Pax Christi Metro-DC joined other groups in co-sponsoring events marking 20 years of U.S. war on Iraq while also rededicating to the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. of a world where war and injustice are abolished. PC Metro-DC sponsored a “Mass for Repentance for War” celebrated by Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and co-founder Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. Other activities included a march and vigil outside the White House and a teach-in.
Pax Christi Michigan holds its 30th annual conference in March

Pax Christi Michigan, now in its 36th year of Gospel peace-making, is preparing for its 30th Annual PCM State Conference. The theme is “Behold I Make All Things New: Building the New in the Shell of the Old” with Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Fr. Peter Dougherty as keynoter. The day-long event will be held at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Brighton, MI, on Saturday March 26, 2011. There will be workshops on a variety of issues and topics, including immigration, urban farming, nonviolent resistance, the politics of food & healthy eating, using alternative media, jubilee economics and more.

Pax Christi Fond du Lac completes year-long reflection on nuclear weapons

This past August, Pax Christi Fond du Lac, WI, noted the 65th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a public gathering to coalesce local interest and plan for future action that would raise awareness about the imperative of nuclear disarmament. The event was the culmination of a year-long, grassroots educational effort, “Thousand Peace Cranes: A Project of Remembrance, Vision, and Action,” which was begun in August 2009, and involved students of Marian University, St. Mary’s Springs High School, Holy Family Religious Education, and area high school “Roots and Wings” participants, as well as various local convents, church groups, service organizations, a day at the mall, and an area prison. The effort included the use of DVDs, oral presentation, survivors’ stories and the making of peace cranes — totaling over 2,000! — which, mounted on mobiles and/or panels, were hung throughout the year at convents, schools, a local restaurant, drop-in center, a food store, and were on display at Windhover Museum during the month of July. Having spent the year remembering the horrific destruction by nuclear weapons in Japan, and looking seriously at the current threat posed by the world’s nuclear arsenal, on August 6th, 2010, the public gathered to hear Dr. Chuck Baynton, of Milwaukee, WI, challenge us with the vision of a nuclear weapon-free future. Empowered to take further action, Pax Christi Fond du Lac, WI, has since initiated a call for an area-wide Peace Studies Program.

Pax Christi USA joins New Priorities Network:
End wars, cut the military budget, fund human needs

Pax Christi USA has joined with other local and national groups who are coming together as the New Priorities Network! This is a coalition whose stated goal is to “Secure ongoing funding for jobs and services in our communities by building a movement to radically change Federal spending priorities and end the wars.” Pax Christi USA was represented at the launch of the New Priorities Network on October 3, 2010, the day after the “One Nation Working Together Rally” in DC. In January, we became an official member group. The work of this network has been outlined as: 1) Launching a massive resolution campaign that voices the need to radically change spending priorities; 2) Raising up our solution: cut military spending to fund local jobs and services; and 3) Building long-term coalitions – the foundation of New Priorities – between economic and racial justice, peace, labor, faith-based, and other organizations locally and nationally. Look for upcoming Pray-Study-Act emails on how your Pax Christi group can introduce local resolutions, organize speak-outs, and build relationships and events with other New Priority Network groups! Learn more at http://newprioritiesnetwork.org/ and email amy@paxchristiusa.org if you want to get involved.

Global Day of Action on Military Spending:
plan for April 12, 2011

The International Peace Bureau and Institute for Policy Studies call for actions on April 12, 2011 that highlight the enormity of world military spending and the unmet needs this creates globally. Pax Christi International has responded by endorsing and promoting this action opportunity! $1.5 trillion was spent globally on militaries in 2009 and on April 12th—the same day of the actions—the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute will release their report on 2010 military spending. The idea of these actions is to harness as much media attention as possible on this day, so your action should create a good “picture” for the press that includes the dollar amount on military spending in 2010 (which will be emailed to participants one week before April 12). Email gdams2011@gmail.com to register! See www.demilitarize.org for an organizer’s packet which includes information, graphs, press releases, and action ideas!
Listening to Afghan Voices

By Amy Watts
Pax Christi USA Program Associate

It’s not every day you spend 18 hours on the phone, but then again, this was a special day.

Pax Christi USA had been invited to be part of the logistics team for the Global Day of Listening to Afghans on December 19th and I was eager to do so because it was an event initiated by our friends, the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers. For the entirety of a day, the youth would make themselves available to talk to anyone that could join a conference call or Skype. The purpose of the day was to listen to the ordinary people of Afghanistan and the world as they expressed their pain, desires, and hopes—a people’s “December Review.”

The call started at 9:30 pm Saturday my time and ran until 3:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. As the hours passed, I was privileged to hear the cycles of people that came on and off the call, each asking questions, offering solidarity, and committing new energy to ending this war. At one point, we linked in with the people participating in the Advent series “Whose Children Are These?” that were call-ins to hear the Afghan Youth exchange dialogue with U.S. veterans. The technical end and scheduling of callers was challenging, but very rewarding when the pieces came together and allowed individuals and groups from all over to connect.

Two weeks later, the youth traveled to Kabul again to connect with people around the world on New Year’s Day in an event titled “Dear Afghanistan”. Below you’ll see reflections from these various call days. In 2011, may we all feel compelled to truly listen, to build genuine friendships with those labeled our enemies, and to emulate the words of the Afghan Youth, “Love is how we’ll ask for peace.”

Dave Robinson: Executive Director of Pax Christi USA
It was remarkable and inspiring to be able to listen to young people in Afghanistan connect their hopes and courage with others experiencing violence around the world. When my scheduled time came, I noted that the Obama Administration had just released their “review” of Afghan War policy. Notably absent from the report was any reference to the situation faced by ordinary Afghan people. I asked the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers what their personal experience was regarding provision of humanitarian assistance by the US. A chorus of responses broke out at once in the background of the call. “Lies,” several voices said. “There is no help available. We have nothing and nowhere to turn.” Hakim, the mentor to the AYPV then encouraged me to read the recently prepared report “Nowhere to Turn: The Failure to Protect Civilians in Afghanistan,” prepared by 29 relief organizations working in Afghanistan and released for the recent NATO summit in Lisbon November 19-20. You can get the report at www.oxfam.org. It presents a bleak picture of an increasingly desperate situation that flies in the face of the rosy report issued by the Pentagon.

Jacqueline Rito, Pax Christi Long Island member and teacher at Bethpage H.S.:
What better way to end one year and begin a next than with a meaningful connection?

On the evening of December 31st, I had a reserved time slot to connect with Hakim and the Afghan Youth Volunteers. We had managed to briefly connect with them when the program was first introduced to us on the International Day of Peace, September 21st, 2010. The Student Civic group which I advise in a public high school on Long Island gave interested students the chance to connect with the Afghan group via SKYPE. From that initial introduction with names and contacts, the students did not have a chance to connect again. But, I did - again on December 19th and then on December 31st.

Personalizing events, current and historical, creates a bond of humanity that statistics and facts cannot adequately embrace. Speaking to these courageous, yet humble young people across divides and barriers brings connection closer. And finally, for me, hearing the excitement in their young voices when they seemed to recognize my name, the school
and the first impact of the September 21st encounter, elicited a surge of compassion, emotion and empathy within me spontaneously. “Jackleen, Jackleen” - I heard several voices chime together from the background of an unfathomable depth. At that very moment, the only thing that I felt was the immense joy in the realization of the power of spirit and love in human connections across the world and the dedication needed to continue making each new year better than before.

MJ Park, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace recipient:
Little Friends For Peace participated in the calls with the Afghan Youth during Advent. It was a very meaningful and moving experience and made the Advent journey very special. As we light our candle each week and prayed for patience and hope and how we could be the light in the darkness and find our way to Bethlehem and the new born baby Jesus - connecting with the youth and vets from the army - hearing their voices, their stories and their longing for Peace and friendship and not war and hatred - was so moving. One week one of the Afghan youth said, “Why does there have to be war? And no money is worth one person’s life.”

LFFP is trying to answer the violence with skills for Peace. We are trying to bring hope and light to the darkness. We are trying to say what we are for and not what we are against. The voices and the messages of the youth touched our hearts and gave us the longing to connect and build friendships with them. Also, we heard their cry, their hope, their longing just like Mary and Joseph longing to get to Bethlehem and find a stable and welcoming people.

On New Year’s Day we participated in the Global Day of connection. That call was filled with hope and dreams that we can build a new world, stop the war and fighting and build a culture of Peace.

From all these calls it has motivated LFFP to try and do a peace camp with the Afghan youth and bring our Peace train there. We are working to make the dream come true.

Action Alert: Global Day of Listening to Iraqis in March
Eager to be part of one of these Global Call Days? These kind of conversations—inspired by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers—will occur around each solstice or equinox. March 20, 2011 will be the Global Day of Listening to Iraqis. Visit www.thepeoplesjourney.org. Do you have some time to help with logistics before or during the call? Please email amy@paxchristiusa.org.

Coming to Consciousness:
Reflexiones para la Cuaresma de 2011
by Angie O’Gorman

About the Author: Angie O’Gorman’s essays have been published in America magazine, National Catholic Reporter, and Commonweal. She has been involved in human rights work and nonviolent conflict resolution in the United States, Central America, and the West Bank.

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In December, 2008, President-elect Obama was clear in his commitment to end the Cold War alert status of US and Russian nuclear forces: “Keeping nuclear weapons ready to launch on a moment’s notice is a dangerous relic of the Cold War. Such policies increase the risk of catastrophic accidents or miscalculation. I believe that we must address this dangerous situation—something that President Bush promised to do when he campaigned for president back in 2000, but did not do once in office. I will work with Russia to end such outdated Cold War policies in a mutual and verifiable way.” President-elect Obama.*

With the ratification of the New START treaty, the US and Russian Republic have reengaged in direct talks over their nuclear arsenals after nearly ten years. While New START will reduce both arsenals by several hundred warheads each over seven years, thousands of nuclear weapons will remain operational and deployed. Most remain on hair-trigger alert in a “launch-on-warning” posture. The current and constant danger posed by these horrendous weapons remains ever-present.

Pax Christi USA, in conjunction with Abolition 2000, has launched a campaign to move the nuclear weapons states to end the decades-old launch-on warning policy and de-alert their nuclear arsenals (see the enclosed Sign-On Ad, The First Step in a New START).

De-alerting Nuclear Weapons became a central focus in the 2010 NPT review conference final document outlining the first steps towards a reinvigorated vision to rid the world of nuclear weapons because of the immediate threat that a launch ready, high-alert status for nuclear weapons has always posed to our global community. The US agreed at the Review Conference to, “Consider the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security, [specifically aimed at reducing] the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons.” In a letter sent by Abolition 2000 to President Obama and President Medvedev in December, it was pointed out that “At this moment, the U.S. and Russia, with 95% of the world’s nuclear arsenal, still maintain high-alert postures which permit each of their presidents to order the launch of more than 1000 strategic warheads in a matter of a few minutes.”

According the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, there have been at least 20 incidents** since 1956 in which false alarms (through accident, miscalculation, miscommunication, or technical error) and direct confrontation (narrowly averted madness) have brought us dangerously close to a nuclear exchange which could have resulted in the complete annihilation of humanity. This is thought to represent only a fraction of false alarms reported, only on the American side, as such incidents became classified in 1985.***

An Abolition 2000 de-alerting working group was created after the NPT review conference, to help sharpen and guide the focus on the immanent danger posed by nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert. In this effort, the Abolition 2000 working group held a follow up panel on de-alerting at the UN in the fall of 2010. Pax Christi USA, as Secretariat for Abolition 2000, and a member of this working group, participated in the UN event and continues to push the Obama Administration to fulfill the President’s promise to negotiate a de-alerting agreement with the Russian Republic. A new statement being circulated by Pax Christi USA (see enclosed Sign-On Statement) states that “As people of faith who have long labored to secure the world from the threat of nuclear annihilation, we reassert this call for reducing the alert posture of nuclear weapons...Having secured a New START, it is now time to take a First Step—remove the immediate danger these weapons pose by taking them off hair trigger alert and ending the decades old policy of launch on warning.”

New START should be seen as just that, a beginning—a chance to move in new directions. But continuing the same old course of reduction of our nuclear arsenal while at the same time refusing to commit to eliminating nuclear weapons before the rest of the world does, acts much like Zeno’s paradox. The arrow never quite reaches its destination. Where do we go from here? In May 2010, at the conclusion of NPT review conference in New York, the US consented to the conclusion that, “All states need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.”

Pax Christi USA remains committed to a continued and sustained effort on de-alerting and we will make our voices heard here in the US and globally through Abolition 2000. It is not the absence of the ability to launch nuclear weapons at a moments notice but the presence of that ability that is endangering our national security. As the community of Pax Christi USA, we are calling upon congress and the Obama Administration to take the first achievable step in securing the vision of a nuclear weapons free future by removing an outdated and unnecessary danger today—de-alert the arsenal now!

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** http://www.nuclearfiles.org/menu/key-issues/nuclear-weapons/issues/accidents/20-mishaps-maybe-caused-nuclear-war.htm
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The Peace Current
Defense Dollars and Job Creation: A Job-Killing Myth

The debate over our bloated military budget has reached a highpoint in these past few months, especially in light of our growing debt, fragile domestic economy, and persistent high unemployment rate.

Recently, FCNL, the Friend’s Committee on National Legislation, informed us that new house rules have given Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), the house budgetary chair, full and individual power to bypass the usual bipartisan consultation and decide by himself how much, and in what areas, the House will recommend that the U.S. government spend the public’s money. Rep. Ryan argues that meaningful spending cuts can only be achieved in the areas of domestic, non-security discretionary spending. This amounts to cuts in areas such as education, health and human services, food/nutrition programs, housing and urban development, and others but excludes defense spending. Catholic social teaching tells us that ignoring our inordinate spending on defense while reducing programs of social uplift constitutes a clear theft from the poor and jobless and is the antithesis of our preferential option for the poor.

In early July 2010, Barney Frank and Ron Paul issued a joint bipartisan call saying, It is irrefutably clear to us that if we do not make substantial cuts in the projected levels of Pentagon spending, we will do substantial damage to our economy and dramatically reduce our quality of life. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has recently proposed what are described as ‘surprisingly deep’ cuts in ‘inefficiencies’ related to defense spending amounting to 78 billion dollars over the next 5 years. Considering Defense Secretary Gates’ proposal, is 78 billion in cuts over 5 years ‘deep’? Given the state of our economy, where and how does our unemployment rate and defense spending intersect? Does the military create good paying jobs for American citizens? Let us look at the facts.

The approximate military budget for 2011 is 1.3 trillion dollars. If military expenditure continues to hover at around the one-trillion-dollars-per-year-mark for the next 5 years, and the initial proposal of Secretary Gates is accepted without further reductions, there will be an approximate 1.6% funding decrease in the Dept. of Defense over 5 years. Military spending comprises over half of our nation’s discretionary funds, a less than 2% cut in defense is a mockery to those struggling to provide dignity for themselves and their families in these hard economic times.

Job Creation: Defense Spending vs. Alternative Social Spending

Job creation and defense spending directly interact and comprise a large part of the concern in cutting defense funds (i.e. the loss of jobs). This spending competes for discretionary funds with other alternative sectors of the economy that also create employment opportunities and social benefits. In short, discretionary spending is a prioritization of funds and reflects what Americans feel is important for our quality of life. Given the desperation of our 14.5 million unemployed brothers and sisters, citizens should ask themselves how effective, both in terms of quantity and quality, defense spending is at creating jobs compared to alternative sectors. Several studies of this exact nature have been done since the 1960’s, all coming to the same conclusion about the nature and outcome of these two very different prioritizations within economic public policy.

One of the more recent studies asking this question, done by PERI in 2007, looked at how a one billion dollar investment would effect job creation in the categories of defense spending, consumer spending (representing tax cuts), health care, education, mass transit, and construction for home weatherization/infrastructure (the last two representing ‘green jobs’).

Coming in second to last, just above consumer spending (tax cuts), both in number of jobs created and the quality of those jobs in terms of pay, was defense spending. When compared to all other categories, the number of jobs created by defense spending were much less and job quality (pay) was found to be only marginally better overall.

In essence, when considering the total number of jobs created, total wages and benefits for those jobs, and the creation of moderate and high quality jobs (between roughly $28,000 and $64,000 per year), an investment of one billion dollars in education, health care, mass transit, or renewable energy jobs each performed significantly better than the same amount of money invested in defense. In the case of investment in education vs defense spending, spending on education not only created twice as many jobs as defense but created more than twice the amount of total wages and benefits from employment. More than that, it created more money than was originally invested and maintained a near equal percentage of high paying jobs when compared to defense spending.

References:

*http://www.warresisters.org/federalpiechart
**http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/other_publication_types/PERI_IPS_WAND_study.pdf

Pax Christi USA - February 2011
them in mid-forkful as they stared at televised death. But by the end of the war, he, his wife and his young children could eat their way through any carnage—no matter how grim it might be. They had isolated themselves from the human cost of war, as we may be in danger of doing in the case of the human cost of violence.

It is almost as if we have rewritten a sentence from the Bible so that we have come to accept not that the poor will always be with us—but that violence will always be with us, so therefore there is nothing we can do about it.

But we’ve heard that song of surrender before. Abolitionists were dreamers. They would not see slavery brought to an end. Early labor organizers were told working people would never have unions strong enough to represent their needs. And women, those early clouds of activists, seeking the vote for our gender were dismissed out of hand. Women were not qualified to be voters. [Our minds were simply not good enough.] How often were African Americans told, “segregation is your lot in life—you cannot change it?” Over and over we have been told “there is no use trying—just accept things as they are.”

Dr. Gerard Vanderhaar, one of PCUSA’s Ambassadors of Peace has written, “We challenge the culture of violence when we ourselves act in the certainty that violence is no longer acceptable, that it’s tired and outdated no matter how many cling to it in the stubborn belief that it still works and that it’s still valid.” This epitomizes Pax Christi USA—this is our response to the naysayers.

Since its very beginning, Pax Christi USA has refused to make peace with violence, has refused to sign a treaty to accord a rightful place for violence in our world. Our task may seem daunting to be sure. But our commitment to it is unshakeable.

Elsewhere in this and other issues of our membership newsletter, you will read of how Pax Christi USA, guided by Catholic social teaching, seeks to confront the violence of our world through projects in disarmament and demilitarization; economic and interracial justice; human rights and global restoration; the spirituality of nonviolence and peacemaking; and our innovative internship formation program for young adults.

In the year that I have served as the director of the Washington Office, I have come to have such great appreciation for the goals of Pax Christi, the projects that have been initiated, and the hard working people who are bringing them to fruition. Each of you in your own way—whether it be through participation in the Global Day of Listening to Afghan Project; risking arrest opposing the war in Iraq; advocating for a world without nuclear weapons; supporting comprehensive immigration reform for our immigrant sisters and brothers; calling for the immediate protection of human rights defenders who are at risk of torture and illegal detention; the coming together for prayer and reflection; volunteering at the DC or Erie offices; or making financial contributions—you represent hope in our wounded world and your support sustains Pax Christi USA’s existence. None of this could be happening without you!

I know that at times a tidal wave of despair may seem about to sweep over us—threatening to drown our hope for a violence-free world. But despair will not rule us! Violence will not win! Through it all, Pax Christi USA remains a brightly shining lighthouse amidst a tidal wave of violence and despair.

Please continue to support our efforts in making Pax Christi a vision of a world that might be—a world that can be. We can. We are making this world a better place. We look to you to be the promise of better days to come.

Together on the journey!

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

p/s . . . should you wish to be more involved in any of PCUSA’s programs, please contact me at: pcusa.programs@gmail.com

Peacemaking Quote

“The essence of nonviolence is love. Out of love and the willingness to act selflessly, strategies, tactics, and techniques for a nonviolent struggle arise naturally. Nonviolence is not a dogma; it is a process.”

- Thich Nhat Hanh