Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Pax Christi USA Member,

It has been gratifying yet humbling to have spent quality time with Pax Christi USA members in Arizona, Missouri, Georgia and Illinois (and by the time you receive this, Florida, Massachusetts, and New York!). By the time these regional dialogues are concluded in May 2013, members of the Pax Christi USA national staff, National Council, Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team and various committees will have visited 15 different regions.

The intent of the gatherings is for staff to hear directly from the membership on the ground level their concerns and reflections. This mutual dialogue is primary for the growth and expansion of Pax Christi USA as the Catholic peace movement.

Our time together centers around three aspects:

- PCUSA asks membership to share how they as individuals and as a region are engaging in activities relating to the four initiatives. We have heard amazing feedback ranging from working directly with individuals and communities who are poor to collaborating with other justice organizations in bringing about reform on the state and national levels. It is clear that our membership is engaged in working for peace with justice in many non-violent ways.

- Contemplating the ‘Signs of the Times’: Our membership has shared their struggles of working for peace in neighborhoods plagued with violence; finding space for dialogue with the leadership of our institutional church and seeking to find ways to develop a spirituality of non-violence both abroad and at home.

- Our membership is quite interested in hearing and affirming the activities which the national office has been engaged in centered on the initiatives. There have been wonderful exchanges in seeking ways in which the national office and regions can strengthen mutual communication and accountability.

The national office has sought input and direction from the regions as to how PCUSA can intentionally invite and include young adults and communities of color. This concern is critical for the growth and expansion of PCUSA. There has been overwhelming agreement and support that PCUSA must move this concern from “talk” to “action”. I’m hopeful that our regions will place this on their priority list.

In closing, it continues to be a privilege for me to travel to the various regions and to spend quality time with other PCUSA companions on the journey!

I remain, like you, committed to working for peace with justice,

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN
Executive Director, Pax Christi USA
pchappell@paxchristiusa.org

For news on the regional dialogues which have already taken place, please check out pages 4-5 in this newsletter. You can also find out about upcoming regional dialogues by visiting the PCUSA website, www.paxchristiusa.org.
The evening of September 7, 2012 brought together the believers, dreamers and do-ers of peace. The annual Pax Christi USA Momentum event, held at Trinity University in Washington, D.C., was a moment of renewal and re-commitment for the 200 guests who attended. The co-presidents of Pax Christi International, Bishop Kevin Dowling from South Africa and Marie Dennis, were present with us for the evening. The 2012 Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award was given to Ruben Garcia for his work with the immigrant community in El Paso, TX. Our keynote speaker was Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, founding bishop-president of Pax Christi USA, who spoke on the 30th anniversary of the U.S. bishops’ 1983 peace pastoral, *The Challenge of Peace*. Bishop Gumbleton was also presented with the ‘Lifetime of Loving Service’ award from Pax Christi USA.

During this time when we listen to the political discourse, especially during the campaign season, it can feel like issues of justice and peace either don’t matter or don’t have a place in the dialogue. However, gathering together and joining with others who believe, dream and do the work of peacemaking is a moment of hope and re-commitment to actualizing God’s Dream for our world.

“It’s the task of Pax Christi USA to once more look at that pastoral—The Challenge of Peace—and to teach it to our young people... It is time to bring back its message once again and look at how comprehensive it is... We need to recapture that enthusiasm, that determination, that commitment (to peace) once more.”

From Bishop Gumbleton’s keynote speech at Momentum 2012

**Momentum 2012: A bright light of hope for justice and peace-makers**

Save the Date! The Pax Christi USA National Conference for 2013 will take place in Washington, D.C. on June 14-16, 2013. Check the website for more details coming soon!
New Council members elected,  
New Executive Committee chosen

The Pax Christi USA National council met in early-September in Washington, D.C. at the Center of Concern. Two new members were installed, the recently elected David O’Brien and Heather Brouillet Navarro. O’Brien is an historian who comments regularly on issues in American Catholic life and recently contributed an essay on Catholic peacemaking in Peacebuilding: Catholic Theology, Ethics, and Praxis (Orbis, 2010). Navarro formerly led a campus chapter at Washington University in St. Louis and recently helped to catalyze a new group in St. Louis. She is a private public interest attorney working in the area of civil rights, advocating for individuals and groups for the inclusion and equality of those at the margins of society. (Full bios of Navarro and O’Brien, as well as the rest of the council, are available on the Pax Christi USA website.)

The September 2012 National Council meeting also saw the election of a new executive committee for the 2012-2013 year. Re-elected as National Council Chair is Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM. Cathy Woodson, a community organizer from Virginia, was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair, with Cynthia Morris-Colbert, former education director at the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the USCCB, elected as Treasurer. Nick Mele, a retired U.S. diplomat, was re-elected as Secretary.

Pax Christi USA welcomes new Director of Programs

In July, Pax Christi USA announced that Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN has joined the national staff as the Director of Programs. Sr. Nadeau’s responsibilities will include developing, implementing and overseeing the programs of PCUSA related to its primary initiative areas of the spirituality of non-violence and peacemaking; disarmament, demilitarization and reconciliation with justice; economic and interracial justice in the United States; and human rights and global restoration.

“Pax Christi USA is delighted to welcome Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN, to our national staff. As Director of Programs, Sister brings her talents and skills to assist PCUSA in the implementation of national programs based on its priority initiatives,” stated Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. “Her ongoing commitment to social justice coupled with her artistic capabilities promises to be a ‘good fit’ for PCUSA. Our staff and National Council look forward to working with Sr. Anne-Louise and congratulates her as she begins this new position.”

Sr. Nadeau comes to Pax Christi USA after working as Case Management Supervisor for the Families That Work Program at My Sister’s Place Women Center in Baltimore, Maryland. She holds a B.A. in Sociology/Social Work from Annhurst College and a M.A. in Pastoral Ministry and Counseling from Emmanuel College. As a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur she has worked extensively with young adults and adult learners at Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, CT while serving in Campus Ministry, Director of the Personal Counseling Center and later as Associate Dean of Students. She also served on the leadership team of the Connecticut unit of the Sisters of Notre Dame and continues to be the co-chair of the SND/USA Anti-Racism Team.

Pax Christi International issues handbook on nonviolence

Pax Christi International has released a new publication entitled: An Introductory Handbook to Non-violence from the Perspective of Conflict Transformation. The publication is a contribution to the existing programs on non-violence and its relationship with the transformation of conflict and power. The text is written by Colombians Carlos H. Fernandez and Luisa Fernanda Trujillo. The manual is available in English at http://archive.paxchristi.net/2012/2012-0048-en-am-PS.pdf

PCUSA members are also encouraged to check out the Pax Christi International website and see the new logo at www.paxchristi.net.
Beginning in May 2012 and continuing on through June 2013, members of the national leadership team of Pax Christi USA are participating in a series of regional dialogues building up to the 2013 National Conference. These dialogues are an opportunity for national leadership to meet with, listen to, and dream with Pax Christi USA members throughout the nation at a variety of locations. The dialogues adhere to a general template crafted by the national staff based on a reflection, action, reflection process to fit regional realities and needs. And the insights and ideas coming out of these regional meetings are being incorporated into the planning of the 2013 National Conference and the organizational plan for the years to come. The national leadership team attending the dialogues includes Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA; another national staff member; a National Council representative; a Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team member; and members of various National Council committees.

**What participants are saying about the dialogues...**

“The energy in the room during the regional gathering was certainly contagious. I felt refreshed and motivated to bring the Pax Christi message to as many people as our small Pax Christi Servants group can. The Spirit was moving and GOD IS GOOD.” - Karen Jackson, Pax Christi Illinois

“Sr. Patty got us off to a roaring start and kept the event at

**Upcoming Regional Dialogues**

- Nov. 18, 2012 – PC-So. California. Contact Sharon Halsey-Hoover at shalseyhoover@gmail.com
- Dec. 1, 2012 – PC-New Jersey. Contact Kathy O’Leary at kolearypcnj@gmail.com
- Feb. 2, 2013 – PC-Michigan in Lansing. Contact Joan Tirak at paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com
- Feb. 23, 2013 – PC-Minnesota. Contact Jim Hubley at jhubley@chartermi.net
- April 7, 2013 – PC-Texas, in Houston, TX. Contact Frank Skeith at fskeith@sbcglobal.net
- April 20, 2013 – PC-Maine. Contact Denny Dreher at laffmom@yahoo.com
- May 4, 2013 - PC-Pacific Northwest. Contact Tom Webb at sojournertpw@gmail.com
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“Some themes emerged very clearly: The importance of JustFaith - a substantial number of the attendees came to Pax Christi through the JF program; there was considerable excitement about the new module developed by (PCUSA National Council member) Scott Wright. Maybe it was the venue, but anti-racism rang a lot of bells - several folks there work with communities of color, and the organizers, the Wolfords, live in a barrio plagued by lack of services and other common problems. I had the sense people were interested in reaching out... There was a hunger for more contact from the national office and a desire to be better connected among the regions, nationally and even internationally.” - Nick Mele, Pax Christi USA National Council member, participant in the dialogue in Arizona

“I thought the event was well-attended and Sr. Patty was inspiring. You might expect that Pax Christi groups would talk about the tough questions facing the Catholic church today. We were not disappointed.” - Steve Jackson, Pax Christi Illinois Co-coordinator

“The Atlanta regional dialogue was successful in all kinds of ways... One of the ideas that came out of the dialogue was for a coalition of the historically African-American downtown churches to form a new Pax Christi group. Our pastor is actively involved in getting the other pastors on board so they can promote from within. We hope to have our first meeting in early Advent.” - Cathy Crosby, Pax Christi Atlanta

“I’m sure that Sr. Patty’s enthusiasm inspired us all to stay at it!” - Rose Bagley, Pax Christi Illinois

**Upcoming Regional Dialogues**

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- May 4, 2013 - PC-Pacific Northwest. Contact Tom Webb at Tom Webb at sojournertpw@gmail.com
Pax Christi Dallas marches against Afghanistan war

On Oct. 6, Pax Christi Dallas participated in an anti-war march and rally on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the war on Afghanistan. The theme was ‘Shut the Door on War’. The rally took place just across I-75 from the new Bush Library and Institute. The Bush Library officially opens in April of 2013 and PC-Dallas plans to be among those protesting on that day.

Pax Christi Michigan groups sponsor weekly peace vigils

Pax Christi local groups throughout Michigan participate in various weekly vigils:


South Dakota PC hosts conference with Sr. Helen Prejean

Sr. Helen Prejean was the keynote speaker at the eighth annual South Dakota Pax Christi Peace Conference. With her presentation, “Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues,” Sr. Helen engaged and energized the 150 participants.

Additionally, Travis Schulze, Coordinator of South Dakota for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, spoke on “The Road to Abolition.” “Perspectives on the Death Penalty” were given by panel members, Fr. Gary Ternes, Penitentiary Chaplain; Sr. Gabriella Crowley, who visits death row prisoner, Ann Thompson; and Rev. Karl Kroger who worked to end the death penalty for those under 18 in South Dakota. Notary Publics were on hand to witness the “Declaration of Life”, which requests if someone is guilty of homicide for killing them, that person is not to be given the death penalty.

Bishop Gumbleton PC (MI) marches for peace

St. Leo’s Bishop Gumbleton Pax Christi partnered with St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and the Jeanie Wylie Community for a Peace Walk through downtown Detroit on Sept. 21, International Day of Peace. Walkers gathered around the peace pole outside of St. Peter’s for prayer, invoking the spirit of St. Francis in calling for peace and healing, locally and globally. Prayers were also offered in commemoration of the anniversary of the execution of Troy Davis and in memory of all victims of violence, including a neighborhood man who was murdered this past summer at the very site where the prayer service was held. The Gospel mandate to challenge economic violence was highlighted when Colombian hunger striker Jorge Parra, President of the Association of Current and Former Injured Employees of General Motors in Colombia (ASOTRECOL), joined the gathering. Jorge is in Detroit to call attention to workers’ rights violations in the hope of persuading GM to mediate a just settlement on behalf of injured Colombian workers who have lost their jobs. Led by a banner reading “End War,” marchers carried signs reading “Drones Kill,” “Instead of War, Feed the Poor,” and “Another World is Possible” to Grand Circus Park in the shadow of Comerica Park where large crowds were gathering for a Detroit Tigers’ home game.

Members of Pax Christi Dallas at the “Shut the Door on War” rally (Photo by Joyce Hall)

Members of South Dakota Pax Christi with Sr. Helen Prejean (Photo courtesy of Sisters of the Presentation)
Pax Christi Metro West (MA) gathers for midday retreat
On Sunday, Sept. 16, Pax Christi Metro West (meaning the towns and cities around Framingham, MA) gathered for a midday retreat to start their 2012-13 activities. Eleven members were present. We reflected on the upcoming 50th anniversary of Pope John XXIII’s letter *Pacem in Terris*, using materials from Pax Christi as well as Center of Concern. This time of reflection helped us understand the context of the world and Church at the time of that letter, our present day context as well, and the impact of those intuitions of Pope John that helped us then and now be committed to peace. We ended our time together with practical next steps in the Faithful Budget campaigns, both national as well as in Massachusetts, the assisted suicide proposition on our November ballot, and local International Peace Day participation in Framingham.

Students outside the SAKALA office in Haiti. (Photo by Manuel Padilla)

Pax Christi USA staff return from Haiti visit
Amy Watts and Manuel Padilla, co-coordinators of the joint project between Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi Port-au-Prince, visited the SAKALA program in early September. PCUSA has been collaborating with PC Port-au-Prince to support their work to expand capacities for peace in Cite Soleil, a neighborhood in the capital city. Amy and Manuel arrived shortly after Tropical Storm Isaac. While the heavy rains and winds brought down tents, flooded homes, and destroyed crops and livestock, they reported that the damage was mild compared to other storms of the past.

PC Port-au-Prince responded quickly to the needs of the neighborhood during and after the storm. Many from the neighboring tent camp, SOHAMO, took shelter at Pax Christi’s community center and some remain living there because their tent shelters were destroyed. During the summer, PC Port-au-Prince ran a peace camp for the youth they work with in the neighborhood. In response to the storm, they engaged the youth in this day program to participate in community service to help repair and rebuild homes and tents so that those who are living at the program site can find support. For a full report from Amy and Manuel on progress in the SAKALA program, visit the Pax Christi USA website.

PC Northern California celebrates “Lives Well Lived”
This last year a handful of Pax Christi Northern CA’s friends and colleagues passed away. In mid-September, members gathered for a one-day program, “Lives Well Lived,” created to review these special lives, their friends’ strengths, weaknesses, and how they fit into the peace and justice movement. The program also provided an opportunity to reflect on what might contribute to making a life “well lived”. Participants reflected on the lives of Faye and Jack Butler of Fremont, Duncan Buchanan of Hayward, and Peter Ediger of Las Vegas.

Pax Christi Minnesota looks at peace, ecology, economics
The 2012 Pax Christi Minnesota State Assembly was held in St. Cloud on September 29. The theme was “Foundations of Peace: Peace Conversion and a Pathway to Equitable and Ecologically Responsible Economics,” presented by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, a professor at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Workshops featured during the assembly included: Taxation and the U.S. Budget, Faithful Citizenship, Educating Peacemakers, Healing the Wounds of Racism, Micro-credit and Fair Trade, and Project Save Our Homes.

Long-time Pax Christi leader Herb Bazur passes
In August, we learned that long-time Pax Christi USA member and local group leader Herb Bazur had died. Herb was 88 years old. Herb was active in PCUSA for many years, including his local participation with groups and members in Michigan, Florida and Indiana. Known for his PCUSA rose tattoo, Herb was often the center of laughter and joy at the many Pax Christi gatherings he and his wife Betty attended.

Herb’s family wrote in his obituary, “We will work to keep alive the memory of our charismatic and colorful Herb in many ways. He would encourage us to stop and smell the flowers, love our neighbors, walk with the marginalized, vote with poor people in mind, and spread joy.” Herb was an extraordinary soul, generous and giving and loving with all his heart. He was a blessing to our movement and to all who knew him. We give thanks for his life and his witness.

For more news of local groups, regions & members from around the nation, read “On The Line” on the PCUSA website every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Encouraged to read the signs of the times and to prepare for the coming of a Savior, we enter Advent in awe and more than a little anxious. Even a cursory glance at the state of our world reveals good reasons for concern: war, threats of war, and numerous, dreadful consequences of war; disinformation, enemy-making, and exclusion; an unthinkable gap worldwide between the 1% and the 99%, with millions of people living in absolute poverty; and increasingly visible signs of ecological catastrophe.

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand” (Luke 21:28).

We who have heard the Story before listen with renewed hope and settle into the waiting-time when the “not yet” of New Creation begins again to quiver in anticipation.

Hope defines our waiting. Unbounded love, we know, will transform the ordinary and extraordinary struggles of daily life—for survival, for dignity, for beauty, for meaning, for integrity. God-with-us will restore the damaged relationships of our lives; bring the beloveds now excluded from the fullness of life to the banquet table; and carry to fruition all our work for peace on Earth.

In these times, new meaning permeates the possibilities. Slowly we are beginning to imagine that the groaning of all creation may in fact bear fruit—that the One we await is the Cosmic Christ, who will help us once and for all to decipher and respond with integrity to the “signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars . . . and the roaring of the sea and the waves.”

Take some time to reflect on the “signs of our times.” Where do you find hope in the day-by-day journey of life?

VOICES OF HOPE, WOMEN OF WISDOM

Pax Christi USA 40th Anniversary - Special Edition Advent Reflection Booklet!

We asked the authors to reflect on this Advent season’s readings and to share from their perspective and experiences what the readings evoke regarding the signs of the times - how far we’ve come in this 40-year journey and how far we have yet to go. We asked them to share their hope and their wisdom for the journey.

About the Authors: Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace, national board member of JustFaith and author of several books; Dr. Mary Jo Iozzio, Professor of Moral Theology at Barry University in Florida, author, and a member of the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team since 2004; Sr. Dianna Ortiz, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace, torture abolition advocate and author; and Cathy Woodson, community organizer and non-profit advocate in Virginia, current member of the PCUSA National Council, and a member of the Pax Christi USA Anti-Racism Team since 2009. Truly voices of hope and indeed women of wisdom - we are honored to be on the journey with them.

Order on the Pax Christi USA website, call 814-520-6245, email sales@paxchristiusa.org

The basic fact is that Christianity, as it was born in the mind of this Jewish teacher and thinker, appears as a technique of survival for the oppressed. That it became, through the intervening years, a religion of the powerful and the dominant, used sometimes as an instrument of oppression, must not tempt us into believing that it was thus in the mind and life of Jesus.

-Howard Thurman