

Pax Christi USA welcomes you to...

THE DANGER OF DRONES AND REMOTE CONTROL WARFARE

Pax Christi USA at the SOA – 12th annual gathering, November 16, 2012

Opening Music (led by Jon Fromer of the SOA Watch Musicians Collective)

Welcome: Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, Chair of the Pax Christi USA National Council

Opening Prayer

Leader: We are gathered here this evening as dreamers, believers and do-ers of peace. We are here, in this room, because we know that however passionate our commitment and our actions are for peace with justice...we need each other for support, for ultimately this is God's work being done through us.

Reader 1: We gather in the spirit of an ancient story, told to us by a great Teacher and recounted to us from the Gospel of Matthew:

Jesus saw the crowds, went up on the mountainside and began to teach:

Blessed are those who are poor in spirit; the realm of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning; they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle; they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice; they will have their fill.

Blessed are those who show mercy to others; they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are those whose hearts are clean; they will see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace; they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the struggle for justice; the realm of heaven is theirs.

You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

Reader 2: We believe in a life of non-violence on a personal, communal, national & international level. We denounce and resist the evils of violence while striving to be reflections of your peace, your justice.

God of Peace, you seeded in us a passion for peace. In your goodness, O God, receive our prayer.

For the times you opened us to truly listen and understand another: **All: THANK YOU.**

For our frustration, impatience, angry and violent words: **All: FORGIVE US.**

For when we grow tired resisting violence & see little result from our efforts. **All: SUSTAIN US.**

Reader 3: We believe in the just reconciliation of enemies through mutual & respectful dialogue, negotiations & alternatives to violence. We denounce the international arms trade and a military-based economy. We promote nuclear, conventional & domestic disarmament, & conscientious objection.

God of Connections, you have placed in our path those who were strangers. In your goodness, O God, receive our prayer.

For the rich and treasured friendships that evolved: **All: THANK YOU.**

For our intolerance of diversity and for those we have treated as "enemy": **All: FORGIVE US.**

For the times we have grown overwhelmed with the complexity of systems and the politics and policies that promote destruction. **All: SUSTAIN US.**

Reader 4: We believe in the equality of all people and join in the struggle against economic injustice, militarism and environmental destruction. All of these are particularly harmful to the poor, minorities, children and women. We strive toward eliminating racist structures in our church and our country.

God of Creation, you have entrusted the world to us. In your goodness, O God, receive our prayer.

For all of its grandeur and beauty, for love so lavishly given and received: **All: THANK YOU.**

For our greed, spitefulness, mistrust, waste, carelessness and disregard of each other and of the abuse of the earth: **All: FORGIVE US.**

For the times we become restless with the slowness of change. **All: SUSTAIN US.**

Reader 5: We believe in universal human rights, both at home and abroad. We stand in solidarity with oppressed and marginalized people struggling for dignity. We reject every form of political and economic domination over others and foster a reverence for all creation.

God of Intimacy, you have entrusted us with family. In your goodness, O God, receive our prayer.

For all the examples of affection, care and support: **All: THANK YOU.**

For all of the lapses in understanding and caring for each other: **All: FORGIVE US.**

For the times we become disillusioned with the use of power within all institutions and begin to question our commitment to peace with justice. **All: SUSTAIN US.**

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Loving God, make me an instrument of peace, that I might give my life in the struggle for justice and disarmament; that I may work for the abolition of war, poverty and nuclear weapons; that I may always respond with love and never retaliate with violence; that I may accept suffering in the struggle of justice and never inflict suffering or death on others; that I may live more simply, in solidarity with the world's poor; that I may defend the poor and resist systemic injustice and institutionalized violence; that I may always choose life and resist the forces of death. Amen.

Speakers:

- **Scott Wright**, Pax Christi USA National Council member, an introduction to our program
- **Bill Quigley**, law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace (introduced by Judith Kelly)
- **Medea Benjamin**, Co-Founder of CodePink and Global Exchange, author of *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control* (introduced by Jean Stokan)

Collection to support the work of Pax Christi USA

*We ask that you please give as much as you are able in support of the work of PCUSA. **Checks can be made out to Pax Christi USA.** Baskets will be circulated. **We thank you for your generosity.***

Questions and Answers with our Speakers

Final Comments and Announcements: Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, Chair of the PCUSA National Council

Closing Prayer

Leader: In his book, *Theology of Christian Solidarity*, Fr. Jon Sobrino, a survivor of the massacre led by graduates of the SOA, which killed his brother Jesuits and their co-workers at the University of Central America on this very date in 1989, states: "Solidarity is another name for the kind of love that moves feet, hands, hearts, material goods, assistance and sacrifice toward the pain, danger, misfortune, disaster, repression or death of other persons or a whole people. The aim is to share with each other, to help rise up, to become free, to claim the human dignity and justice that all people are entitled to..."

Reader: God is love. God stands in solidarity. God is solidarity. Where there is solidarity, there is God.

Leader: And let us all pray together...

ALL: God of love, help us to speak the truth of peace, to practice boundless compassion, to radiate unconditional love, to forgive all, to embody nonviolence, to walk with each other in peace. Disarm our hearts, and we shall be your instrument to disarm other hearts and our world. Lead us, God of nonviolence, with the whole human family, into your nonviolent reign of justice and peace. Amen.

Closing Music (led by Joseph Jencks of the SOA Watch Musicians Collective)