

PeaceMaking

NEWS BRIEFS

Announcements...Updates...Action Alerts

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Comments, questions, suggestions? See Contact Info on Home Page**

Peace Award Presentations at April 20th PCM Conference

LCWR to be honored with Purple Ribbon for Peace

By Joan Tirak, PCM Coordinator

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on the women of our Church whose lives bear witness to the mandate outlined in Isaiah and read by Jesus in the Temple as He announced His liberating ministry." So proclaimed PCM State Council member Kim Redigan in the 2012 Fall/Winter Peace Connections announcing the **Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)** as our 2013 Purple Ribbon for Peace recipient.

Upon hearing this, **LCWR Executive Director Janet Mock, CSJ** replied: *"We are profoundly grateful for this honor. Our members highly value and respect all the work Pax Christi does. It is a high praise to be so honored – we are humbled to be named to receive this award."* She regrets, however, that she cannot be with us to receive the award. She and other LCWR leaders will be in Rome to continue their dialog with the Vatican.

Pax Christi International in a letter of support for LCWR wrote: "Women religious in the United States have been deeply committed to promoting the peace of Christ. They are at the heart of our movement, proclaiming with clarity and love the possibility of a world without war, a future beyond dehumanizing violence." Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi Michigan signed the letter as well. Read the full text at http://paxchristimi.org/Summer2012_PCM_news.pdf

Accepting the award on behalf of the LCWR will be **former LCWR Presidents Margaret Brennan, IHM (1972) and Carol Quigley, IHM (1987)**. Both are members of the Sisters, Servants of the



Immaculate Heart of Mary community, Monroe. Brennan is a theologian, author and scripture scholar, having written on topics of spirituality, sustainability and theology. She has taught at seminaries and universities across the United States and Canada. And Quigley in describing herself wrote:



"My experience in the third world (Brazil), leadership roles in religious life, both in the congregation and nationally in LCWR - as well as my ministry as novice director, have enriched and shaped me."

In her article Redigan paid tribute to the LCWR saying: "Whether it's traveling the country by bus to shine the Gospel light on our federal budget or running a literacy center in a Detroit neighborhood or standing with those living in war zones or ministering to those on death row and their victims, the women in our Church know what it means to keep vigil at the foot of the cross while others flee in terror. The women in this Church have been graced with the courage and wisdom to wait outside the tomb knowing that resurrection is inevitable."

►► *Pax Christi Michigan is privileged to celebrate the witness of women through our 2013 conference presentations by Barbara Reid, OP and Elizabeth Walters, IHM, the numerous women-led workshops, and in giving the Purple Ribbon for Peace Award to the Leadership Conference of Women Religions.*☀



Sarah Fentin to receive Young Adult Peacemaker Award

By Lydia Wylie-Kellermann
PCM Young Peace Activists Coordinator

Sarah Fentin was born just five houses down from me when I was eight years old. She was always a joy to me growing up. But in the last five years, she has been a companion in the work for justice.

I have been privileged to walk alongside her with crosses raised at the SOA, put our hands in the dirt nourishing vegetables in the city of Detroit, served on affinity teams using creative nonviolence in the face of religious hatred, wrestled with questions of our own racism and privilege, brought students together from the Detroit area to share in the work of justice and solidarity, and even shared time in community living together.

Sarah is the kind of person we need in the movement. She is filled with energy and always ready for what comes next. She watches to see who is left out and brings them into the circle. She can talk to anyone and find commonality with them. She is creative in her tactics...always ready to try something new when it's not working. She can be tough and gentle at the same time. She asks the important questions and explains things clearly. She is self-reflective and mindful of her own privilege.

Over the past few years, she has been active with the Pax Christi's Young Peace Activists participating in nonviolence retreats and anti-racism workshops, joining monthly meetings, traveling to the School of the Americas, and leading workshops at the conference. She served as a board member of Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and participated with Michigan Peace Team on local Peace Teams. In high school, she was president of the Amnesty International and the Environmentalism clubs. She played a huge part in creating a vegetable garden along with my students at Grosse Pointe South. She put together reports, plans, presented them to the principal, and put in the garden. As she says, "it was an amazing example of youth organizing something that would never have existed without student activism." She is now a freshman at Michigan State University. She is already involved in Amnesty International, Green Peace, and has just been elected to the Executive board of the Women's Council, a feminist discussion group.

To conclude, I asked Sarah a few questions so that you can get a sense of who she is in her own words.

- **Who has been important leader for you?**
 - My dad for having more organizing experience and know how than anyone else and for remaining passionate.
 - **What justice movements have been important to you?**
 - The feminist movement and women's struggle for equality is a wealth of knowledge. There is so much to learn from the waves of feminism and everything associated.
 - **What do you see as a struggle for this generation?**
 - Community. There is no sense of community and when one
- Concluded on Side 2 – See YAPA Award

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Pax Christi Michigan's
32nd Annual State Conference
**"Prophetic Leadership of Women:
Justice from the Margins"**

Keynoter: Barbara Reid, OP
Theologian, author, educator, speaker

Call to Action: Elizabeth Walters, IHM
Peacemaker, community leader, Meta Peace Team member

Saturday, April 20, 2013
Mercy Center – Bldg D
28650 W. 11 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Also includes 10 workshops
People of All Faiths Welcome

Registration Fee: \$40 (\$45 after April 13th)
Students and low income: \$25
Includes continental breakfast & lunch
(Vegetarian options available)

►► **Special needs must register by April 13**

Questions: paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com, 517-481-5280
Brochure/registration: www.paxchristimi.org



Nuns in focus at 32nd annual state conference

By Carol Jachim, PCM State Council

Like many of you, I've been influenced by "sisters" all my life, from my early days at Sts. Peter and Paul elementary school in Grand Rapids where I was taught by the Franciscan Sisters for nine years ... and then by Dominican Sisters at GR Catholic Central high school ... through today, as I witness nuns in the Detroit area dedicated to nursing the sick, teaching the poor, administrating in institutions, and working for peace and justice issues.

Oh, there have been others, men and women, who encourage activism in the peace movement, but the sisters have been a constant spiritual inspiration.

So I am especially excited about the upcoming annual state conference – it celebrates the profession and leadership of women religious. Conference theme is appropriately called *Prophetic Leadership of Women: Justice from the Margins*, and features Barbara Reid, OP, and Elizabeth Walters, IHM; 10 workshops are available.

We hope you plan to join us on Saturday, April 20, and support Pax Christi; it is the organization that witnesses to the peace of Jesus Christ through numerous initiatives. Please help us make a successful conference; register today; advertise the conference in your local church bulletin; and invite other congregations, groups, and friends in your community. (See sample announcement above)

Pax Christi is a family of peacemakers; we support each other in social justice work. Not only is the conference a reunion, but it is a fundraiser for PCM and its continued work for peace and justice. Your support is greatly appreciated.♥

Honor our Women...become a conference cosponsor

By Joan Tirak, PCM Coordinator

Each year Pax Christi Michigan invites you to consider becoming a conference co-sponsor and each year we beat the goal that we set by 2 to 7 supporters. For example, in 2010 our goal was 55...and we got 57. The 2011 goal was 60... we got 63. Last year, the goal was 65... we got 72. So, I have set our 2013 goal at 70 cosponsors.

We hope YOU will help us meet or surpass our 2013 goal as your way of saying: **"YES! To all the prophetic women in our church and in our lives."** To do this we need at least 20 more cosponsors either at the Peace Partner \$250.00 level OR at the PCM Friends \$100.00 level.

There are many ways of doing this. Some friends or members of local MI Pax Christi communities pool their money to do a group cosponsorship. Others are parishes, peace organizations, memorial or personal cosponsors. Still others are "in-kind" donations from workshop leaders generously waiving their stipend or mileage, OR from conference planners helping to pay conference expenses.

*This year one of our "in-kind" Peace Partners cosponsors is **Meta Peace Team** (previously Michigan Peace Team) – generously designated by our closing speaker Sr. Elizabeth Walters, IHM, in lieu of a stipend for her presentation!*

All donors have several things in common. All believe in the mission of Pax Christi Michigan and want to keep it going and growing. All believe in PCM's radical call to peace with justice. And all believe in PCM's unequivocal support of women like the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

So join us, won't you?

Deadline for entry into Program of the Day is APRIL 14.
Options: \$250.00 Peace Partner OR \$100.00 PCM Friends.

*Make checks payable to Pax Christi Michigan and mail to
808 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing, MI 48910.*

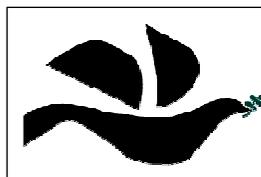
THANK YOU!

YAPA AWARD (From pg. 1)

does begin to grow, some gadget comes out that pushes us back into individual bubbles. Community is hard to find and hard to maintain, but without this generation's outlook, it could almost be impossible.

- **Where do you see hope? Where do you see despair?**
- I see hope in elderly fighters. Knowing that they have not given up and will not give up is extremely inspiring. When I feel beat down by the increasingly negative ways of the world, I wonder how older activists keep at it, but they do and that gives me hope. I see despair in children without homes and in the blatant disregard for all human existence.
- **What work for justice do you hope to do one day?**
- I hope to travel abroad and do some sort of international peace and justice work. It would be a dream of mine to fight for equal education rights in South Africa.

Sarah Fentin really is an incredible human being whom I am privileged to know and work with. It is a gift to honor her with the **Pax Christi Young Adult Peacemaker Award**.☀



HELP build our PCM membership

► Did you know that the Pax Christi Michigan is the **OLDEST** Pax Christi region in Pax Christi USA – dating all the way back to 1975?

►► And did you know that renewing your membership with PCUSA **also** makes you a member of Pax Christi Michigan?

►►► **So if your membership has lapsed**, PLEASE take a moment to renew your commitment to Pax Christi by going to <http://paxchristiusa.org/join-u/> (NOTE: If you are sending a check, please write "membership" on memo line & mail it to PCUSA.)

THANKS SO MUCH!