

INSIDE:

A Special Appeal from the Executive Director Page 1

Report on Momentum 2014, National Council election results, Contact Information Page 2

In Memoriam: Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen Page 3

Time for significant action on climate change by Jim Hug, S.J. New resource from the Catholic Climate Covenant Page 4

PCUSA Statement on Gaza, Advocate for children at the border Page 5

National, Regional and Local Updates Page 6-7

Advent Reflection, Peacemaking Quote Page 8

A SPECIAL APPEAL from the Executive Director

Dear Companions on the Journey,

Greetings of Peace! In June, we brought together five groups of Pax Christi USA members to discern and develop strategies on how to build our movement stronger, as well as to celebrate together and honor this year's Teacher of Peace, Mary Meg McCarthy. Our new office in Washington, D.C. was buzzing with the meetings of our Pax Christi Regional Leaders, our Anti-Racism Team (PCART), our National Council and the National Staff — the first time all these groups gathered for focused discussion in the same room, as well as doing their respective committee work. The Momentum event brought in many more Pax Christi USA members and collaborators.

It feels as if we've "been to the mountaintop" — able to see the potential of all that we can be and do to make a difference in building a more just and peace-filled world. **Yet we simply cannot realize this potential without your financial support.**

Last month we sent out via email and through our website a "special appeal," asking our members to make a special donation and help grow our ability to create the change we all hunger for. We know that some of you may have missed that appeal so we wanted to offer you one more chance to respond. **We hope you'll use the "Peace Fund" envelope included in this mailing and contribute as you are able.**

We all know that our Catholic movement for non-violence is urgently needed in this broken world, and we are uniquely poised to grow it stronger and broader. We also know that through the guidance of Pope Francis there are new openings to build the

prophetic edge of the Church.

Our statement on the crisis in Iraq, the action alerts we have sent out on the violence happening in Gaza and at our border, our workshops connecting Catholic communities of color and local Pax Christi groups — these efforts reflect how we're on that prophetic edge, speaking truth to power.

We need your help to shore up our financial resources in order to be able to secure our movement and address the stresses around being sustainable for the long run. Our message to each of you reading this letter is: PCUSA Needs YOU!

Please help put this movement in position to raise the voice of Gospel non-violence. **You can use the envelope in this mailing to send in a donation by check, or visit our website and click on the "Special Appeal" button on our homepage and give with your credit card securely and quickly, or you can call us at 202-635-2741 and make your pledge.**

We are feeling the stress of seeing the "mountaintop" view, yet we are unable to put the "wind in the sails" fully unless we can raise more funds. Let's keep the beacon of non-violence guiding the church and society as we face military conflicts, nuclear weapons, fleeing refugees, and violence against God's creation.

If Pax Christi doesn't speak out, who will? Again, Pax Christi USA needs YOU.

We hope you'll dig as deep as you can and make a significant contribution at this time. Thanks for your donation to fuel the vision.

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN
Executive Director, Pax Christi USA
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Report from Momentum 2014, National Council election results

By Johnny Zokovitch,
Director of Communications



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for peace.

With the urgency of the humanitarian crisis happening at the U.S.-Mexico border serving as a backdrop, over 100 Pax Christi USA members gathered on June 27 at Trinity University to honor one whose life mission is advocating on behalf of immigrants.

The focus of this year's Momentum event was immigration reform, and Mary Meg McCarthy, executive director of the National Immigrant Justice Center and last year's Teacher of Peace award recipient, was the center of the evening. McCarthy challenged those present to hear the stories of immigrants, to take those stories to our nation's leaders, and to fight for those stories to influence the policies that shape our land.

"Mary Meg McCarthy has a passion and a driving commitment to uphold the human rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the United States and to journey with these individuals, who are often at the fringes of our society, to access justice," stated Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. "She teaches peace and inspires the life-giving hope that justice and peace are indeed within our reach."

The keynote speech for the evening was presented by Sr. Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby and author of *A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change and Community*. Campbell addressed immigration reform and shared stories of people she met on a border tour she took part in last year.

"Is the American dream false advertising when we lock up the hungry people who try to come here and work for a better future?" Campbell asked.

She reminded those present that changing our nation's direction on how we treat immigrants is a responsibility we all share. "It is an unpatriotic lie that our country is based on individualism. The U.S. Constitution says 'we the people' not 'we the me.'"

The final speaker was Ivone Guillen, an immigration associate with *Sojourners Magazine* and a DREAMer herself. Guillen is a recent Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient.

"Millions of undocumented immigrants residing in this country wish to have similar opportunities like the one that I was given through DACA, based on our character and not our places of origin," stated Guillen. "I cannot forget that I am part of a larger group of individuals who reside in your communities, provide you with customer service at stores and restaurants, and are part of the same congregations that many of you attend. We are people who have established longstanding roots and relationships and have the same kind of dreams, beliefs, and desires as you."

"Pax Christi USA is grateful for all of those who participated in this year's event," stated Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, National Council Chair of Pax Christi USA. "From the donation of items for auction, like Fr. Peter Gray's painting of Saint Kateri Tekawitha, to all of our speakers to every person who came out and joined us in supporting this event. We extend our thanks to all."

New members of the National Council were welcomed at the June 2014 meeting. From the at-large slate of candidates, Sr. Rose Marie Tresp, RSM was elected, and current council member Cathy Woodson was re-elected. Both will serve three-year terms. From the regional slate of candidates, former National Staff member Jean Stokan, of the Pax Christi Metro D.C.-Baltimore region, was elected. She will serve a three-year term. Additionally Cynthia Morris-Colbert of Washington, D.C. and Edward Martinez of Wisconsin were appointed as members of the National Council.

For more information on the council, go to www.paxchristiusa.org/about/national-council



Mary Meg McCarthy (left), 2013 Teacher of Peace, with DREAMer Ivone Guillen (Photo by Johnny Zokovitch)

In Memoriam: Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen

By Johnny Zokovitch,
Director of Communications

Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen instrumental in the founding of Pax Christi USA, served as first National Coordinator

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Pax Christi USA is mourning the loss of Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen, SND, one of the early leaders of Pax Christi USA who helped to shape and mold the organization into what it has become today. Sr. Jegen served as Pax Christi USA's first National Coordinator on January 1, 1979 and would continue in that role through December 1982. She passed away on Friday, July 4, 2014 after a long illness.

"We have lost a true peacemaker and advocate within Pax Christi USA and the religious community of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur," stated Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. "I am proud to stand on her shoulders as Pax Christi USA continues its witness as the National Catholic Justice and Peace Movement."

Sr. Jegen served in a variety of positions during the founding and early years of Pax Christi USA. In May 1975, she was one of the original members of the "Executive Committee," the forerunner of the present National Council. Sr. Jegen had come to know of the work of Pax Christi International while she was in Rome in 1971 where she had been teaching women religious from developing nations and doing research for the Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission. Sr. Jegen would attend committee meetings of the U.S. Bishops and numerous other gatherings as a representative of Pax Christi USA. In 1978, Sr. Jegen would be elected to the new position of Chair of the National Council; a few months later, she would be hired as Pax Christi USA's first national staff member, becoming also the first National Coordinator. (Prior to 1979, PCUSA had employed a "General Secretary" which shared some of the same responsibilities as the new position of "National Coordinator.")



Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen

"Mary Evelyn Jegen was teacher and mentor for an entire generation of Catholic peace activists like me," stated Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace, author and lay minister, Tom Cordaro. "She had that rare combination of gifts that set her apart from many others in the movement. She was an excellent theologian, a gifted writer and, most importantly, she was a strategic thinker and visionary. Everything Mary Evelyn did as a leader in the Catholic peace movement was strategically focused on her vision of making nonviolence and peacemaking



Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen (front row, far right) is pictured here with other first generation founders of Pax Christi USA. From left: Bishop Carroll Dozier, Joseph Fahey, Marjorie Keenan RSMJ, Rev. Paul McLaughlin, Gordon Zahn, Eileen Egan, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, and Gerry Vanderhaar. This photo is a clipping from the 20th anniversary issue of PCUSA's magazine.

an integral part of Catholic social teaching and practice at all levels of the Church."

Under Sr. Jegen's leadership, Pax Christi USA experienced unprecedented growth. The number of members in the term of her leadership grew from less than 1,000 to over 5,500 members, including 46 U.S. bishops. During her last year as national coordinator, Sr. Jegen would be chosen by the Pax Christi USA membership as the third recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. She also served as Vice-President of Pax Christi International and led the Pax Christi International delegation at the United Nations.

"We are so grateful for Sr. Mary Evelyn's leadership and love for Pax Christi USA," stated Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, Chair of the Pax Christi USA National Council. "It is greatly due to that leadership that Pax Christi USA has accomplished so much over its more than 40 years of existence now. We give thanks for her life and her witness and we will continue to strive to live up the ideals she believed were central to being the 'peace of Christ' in our world."

For more memories and stories of Sr. Jegen, please visit our special tribute page on the website.

"The organization of a movement of gospel nonviolence and the gradual progression of that gospel nonviolence from the margins of Catholic theology and practice towards the center -- this was, is, and will continue to be Pax Christi's most significant contribution. When Catholics all over the world know that a living faith is incompatible with killing our brothers and sisters, then Pax Christi can close down its offices." ~ Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen

Global Restoration: Time for significant action on climate change

By Jim Hug, S.J.,
Former National Council member

Care about climate change and its impacts on all of us? How could you not?! Take a moment to read Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski's May 29th letter to EPA administrator Gina McCarthy on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (online at <http://bit.ly/1hFdXKh>). It is a model for faith-based advocacy letters; would that all were so well done.

And it is timely, coming out just in time to greet President Obama's June 2nd directive to the EPA for the first national standards on carbon pollution from existing fossil-fuel-fired power plants—our biggest source of global warming pollution. These standards are sure to come under intense attack from those whose short-term economic interests will be affected negatively.

What does the letter say and why is it so good?

From the very first paragraph it emphasizes that the standards to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants must be strong so that they protect the most vulnerable of all ages – the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable that is the hallmark of Catholic social tradition.

He also situates the issue immediately in its most important theological context: Creation is a profound gift from God to be cared for in gratitude and used for the benefit of all. The issues of carbon pollution and climate change are not just scientific or technical issues; they are deeply religious issues about which the Church can and must speak out.

He appeals to scientific evidence that can be verified: that these power plants are the “largest stationary source of carbon emissions in the U.S.” And he highlights the social injustice of the environmental racism and classism in the location of the plants, again pointing out the harmful impact on the most vulnerable. He recognizes that new regulations will have short-term negative effects on some workers and urges support for them as well as a just distribution of the costs to be incurred.

He appeals to Scripture (Matthew 25 – the Last Judgment), to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (human life and dignity, the common good, community participation, subsidiarity), to a previous teaching document (*Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*), and to the most popular world leader today, Pope Francis. Pick your favorite authoritative source!

He points to the Church's extensive empirical experience on the ground: describing the sufferings encountered in the communities where Catholic Relief Services works around the world among the most needy. Catholic Charities institutions too are being overwhelmed by the human suffering and need generated by more violent storms, wildfires, floods, droughts and more.

Recognizing the global extent of the problems the human community is facing, Archbishop Wenski calls on the U.S. government to “exercise leadership for a globally negotiated climate change agreement.” Charity is not enough. Global political solidarity in structure and policy are needed. The U.S. has for too long been an obstacle to strong international climate agreements, preferring instead to protect shortsighted corporate interests.

Finally he indicates the readiness of the Bishops' Conference to work with the Administration and Congress “to ensure that measures necessary to address climate change both care for creation and protect ‘the least of these.’”

Why not add your voice in support of the U.S. Bishops on this crucial set of issues? Drop a note to EPA administrator Gina McCarthy (mccarthy.gina@epa.gov) expressing strong support for meaningful, effective and enforceable national standards.

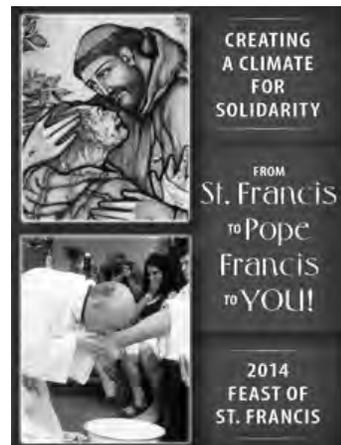


FROM ST. FRANCIS TO POPE FRANCIS TO YOU! CREATING A CLIMATE FOR SOLIDARITY

A new resource from the Catholic Climate Covenant*! 2014 marks the 35th anniversary of St. Francis named as the Patron Saint of those who promote ecology, by St. John Paul II. Pope Francis, equally inspired by St. Francis, highlighted early in his pontificate how the poor are disproportionately and unjustly harmed by environmental degradation, including climate change.

From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You! Creating a Climate for Solidarity is a 90 minute multimedia presentation combining short video testimonials with group reflection processes that highlight the impacts of climate change on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and communities. Each program will be offered in Parish, College, and Youth versions and in both English and Spanish. All materials will be FREE!

After September 1st go to <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/> for more information.



*Pax Christi USA is a Catholic Climate Covenant Partner.

Human Rights: Gaza Statement and the Children at Our Border

Pax Christi USA Statement on the Violence in Gaza

(Pax Christi USA issued the following statement on July 23rd.)

“Peacemaking calls for courage, much more so than warfare. It calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict: yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiations and no to hostilities; yes to respect for agreements and no to acts of provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. All of this takes courage, it takes strength & tenacity.”

~Pope Francis, June 8, 2014

As the number of dead and wounded continues to rise in Gaza, Pax Christi USA calls for an immediate cease-fire by all parties in order to open the possibility for negotiations to end the senseless violence & address the underlying causes which fuel the decades-long tragedy in the Middle East.

Pax Christi USA mourns the loss of life on both sides of the conflict. We stand with all those who have been victimized by violence. Our hearts are broken over the death and destruction which only serves to terrorize hundreds of thousands of civilians in Gaza, those who call this relatively small piece of land home. We join with Pax Christi International members around the world in offering “our sincere condolences to all those in mourning and pray that those who have been killed will be the last to die violent deaths in this escalation of hatred and vengeance.”

As the violence escalates and broadens, we are witnessing, in some cases, the perishing of entire families, and the dismantling of what little infrastructure was still intact in the service of the basic human needs of the people who live in Gaza. The attack on Gaza has created a humanitarian disaster, marked all the more tragic by the inability to provide the assistance needed because of the ongoing violence.

Pax Christi USA has been unequivocal in insisting that for peace to be possible, there must be an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, a dismantling of the barrier wall built on Palestinian land, and an end to the Gaza blockade. We have asserted that the policies of our own government have functioned to provide the support that enables the occupation and that we must continue to pressure our political leaders for a change in those policies. U.S. policy and aid must be tied to respect for human rights and the safeguards provided by international law for the human dignity of all. Even as the violence rages in Gaza, as U.S. citizens we have a responsibility to hold our own government accountable for its complicity in this conflict, as well as U.S. corporations which benefit from protecting the status quo.

We believe that even in tragedy lies hope. Our hope for the Palestinian & Israeli peoples is for a future built in recognition of their shared humanity, where the security of all is rooted in the practice of justice for all. Let this be the last of the bloodshed in this region which has suffered for so long.



Let this tragedy awaken the consciences & loose the voices of the great majority of Israelis and Palestinians who yearn for peace. Let these be the last throes of the old hatreds and prejudices, and let the evil of this violence give way to the birth of a new day and a just peace for the Middle East.

Pass a Local Resolution: Become a Welcoming Community for the Children at Our Border!

“I wish to also call attention to the tens of thousands of children that emigrate alone, unaccompanied to escape violence and poverty ... This humanitarian emergency requires, as a first urgent measure, these children be welcomed and protected. Many people forced to emigrate suffer, and often, die tragically; many of their rights are violated, they are obliged to separate from their families and, unfortunately, continue to be the subject of racist and xenophobic attitudes.”

~Pope Francis, July 11, 2014

Towns, cities and counties across the United States have already begun to come out with resolutions and statements of welcome, counteracting messages of fear and hatred which misrepresent the majority of communities in our nation. In mid-July the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Santa Clara County each released resolutions and statements calling for a humanitarian response to increasing numbers of children and families fleeing Central America and arriving in the United States. Los Angeles and Columbia, SC have followed suit. Mayors in Lansing, MI, Syracuse, NY, and Atlanta, GA have championed statements of welcome after having heard from grassroots and faith-based groups in their cities.

For more information on how to get your city or town to pass a resolution, go to our website and click on “The Children at Our Border” button, where you’ll find our webpage for this and other resources for prayer, study and action.

Pax Christi USA holds leadership summit

Pax Christi USA hosted a leadership summit during the weekend of June 27-29 to coincide with its annual Momentum event. It is the first time in several years that Pax Christi USA has gathered together its regional coordinators, the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team, the National Council and the National Staff. Nearly 50 leaders attended.

The summit began with sessions specially designed for various groups present at the summit. Friday afternoon included a large group gathering for reflection, discussion and small group work. The evening event was Momentum 2014, featuring presentations by the 2013 Teacher of Peace Mary Meg McCarthy, Sr. Simone Campbell of NETWORK, and Ivone Guillen of Sojourners on immigration reform.

The weekend's communal events ended on Saturday evening with a liturgy celebrated by Fr. John Rausch, glmy, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace and National Council member.

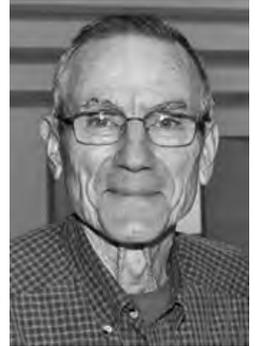


Pax Christi USA's Regional Leaders in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Johnny Zokovitch)

Giving thanks for Nick Eloff, long-time PC MN member

(from Florence Steichen) Veterans, peacemakers and workers for justice, people of Guatemala and Palestine, and countless others lost a dear friend and faithful supporter when Pax Christi Minnesota's Nick Eloff, 84, died May 24 in St. Paul... Among their many works for peace, Nick and (his wife) Mary adopted Mordechai Vanunu in 1996, when Mordechai was serving an 18 year prison term in Israel for revealing the existence of Israel's nuclear weapons program. They visited him in prison, corresponded with him, and enlisted friends to write to Mordechai... As a team Nick and Mary supported and reinforced each other, pursuing

numerous opportunities to promote nonviolence and advocate for Palestinian rights. They were active in the Twin Cities and USA chapters of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement... (Nick is pictured here, to the right. To read Nick's full obituary, go to the PCUSA website and search for "Nick Eloff." [From all of us at Pax Christi USA, we give thanks for your life and witness, Nick.](#))



PC St. Louis hosts Catholic communities of color workshop

(from Laura Kent) In mid-April, Pax Christi USA held its first workshop, "We Grow Together: Catholic Communities of Color and Pax Christi USA," in St. Louis, MO. The workshop is designed to bring together Catholic communities of color with members of various Pax Christi USA regions to create a community that is built on inclusivity and based on Gospel values.

"If we do not count in our membership, members of the communities whom we would like to serve, then as a peace and justice organization, Pax Christi should shut down." It was with this acknowledgement from Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi, that a group of twenty-one St. Louisans began a workshop at Cardinal Ritter College Prep to learn together about Pax Christi. Participants hailed from many parishes and local organizations, all with the common cause of working for justice... The presenters spoke about the ten principles of Catholic Social Teaching, the four principles of Pax Christi USA and the histories of African Americans and Latino/as in the Catholic Church of the United States.

Active Catholics from the Latino/a and African American communities engaged in conversations about violence, gangs, poverty, voting rights and incarceration following the think, judge, act model. At the end of the day, workshop participants made suggestions about actions that could and should be taken in St. Louis communities to further include people of color in the peacemaking process as well as address the discrimination and violence in St. Louis.

This workshop was the first of 4 this past spring; the others were in Atlanta, Miami, and Los Angeles.

PC Memphis, PC Orange County (CA) collaborate on play

Pax Christi Memphis presented the two-hour play, "Pilgrims and Prophets of Peace: Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton,"

continued on page 7...

National, Regional and Local Updates

continued from page 6...

written and performed by Sharon and David Halsey-Hoover of PC Orange County (CA) on Friday, June 20. The evening included an informal meet-and-greet to welcome guests from the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Memphis Theological Seminary, and local congregations.

Pax Christi Los Angeles reaches out to local high schools

(from Sharon Halsey-Hoover) On May 12 PC Los Angeles held an informational meeting with four local high schools about Pax Christi and the starting of high school groups on their campuses. Another six schools responded that they could not attend but would like more information. At the meeting, clips from the Pax Christi video were shown and Fr. Chris Ponnet, from PC LA, and Don Levan, from Bishop Alemany High School, spoke about the mission of Pax Christi and how a group could add focus and opportunity to their attempts to address social justice concerns. In addition to the 4 Directors of Campus Ministry, 11 students attended. After the meeting the attendees joined in the parish noon liturgy and then shared lunch.

Pax Christi Phoenix witnesses against the death penalty

(from John Zemblidge) PC Phoenix continues to witness to the nonviolent Christ in opposition to the death penalty in Arizona. For several years our chapter has co-sponsored prayer vigils on the eve of executions. We traveled to Tucson in February to attend Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona's annual meeting. An ongoing relationship has ensued between member Margaret McChesney and death row inmate Frank McCray. Several PC members continue to visit prisoners in Maricopa County Jail who are facing prosecutions that may result in sentences of death. Long-time members Inge Casey, Dan Peitzmeyer and Bob Basque continue to work tirelessly in addressing forums and meetings of other organizations involved in the abolition movement. On May 15, our chapter hosted Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery where we dialogued and discussed the death penalty in a peaceful and present manner. On May 18, Pax Christi-Phoenix participated in a peaceful prayer vigil outside the Phoenix Downtown Sheraton where the National Association of the Boards of Pharmacy will hold their annual meeting. Abolitionists view pharmacists as allies in the effort to stop executions. With the botched execution of Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma on April 30, states like Arizona that use compounded drugs from non-corporate pharmacies face increased scrutiny.

PC New Mexico commemorates Hiroshima, Nagasaki

(from Rev. John Dear) For the 11th year in a row, PC New Mexico and other faith-based peace activists gathered in Los Alamos, NM in August to remember the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 69 years ago and call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Participants gathered at Ashley Pond in Los Alamos for prayer, walked through the town carrying signs



PC Southern California presented an award to Eddie Motta, a senior and member of PC Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills, CA. The award includes a \$250 scholarship to the college of his choice. From left, Donald Levan, Sharon Halsey-Hoover, Eddie Motta and David Hoover. (Photo courtesy of PC Southern California)

calling for nuclear disarmament, and sat in silence in "sackcloth and ashes" for thirty minutes. They used the ancient biblical symbol of protest from the book of Jonah to symbolize "repentance for the sin of nuclear weapons" and pray for the gift of a nuclear free world.

News Briefs and Upcoming Events

PC Massachusetts co-sponsored the annual Stations of the Cross in front of the Boston Statehouse on Good Friday, including a station written by a man on Death Row in Florida ...

PC Southeastern South Dakota co-sponsored a Good Friday Noon Vigil at the South Dakota State Penitentiary flagpole. Following the prayer service, participants were given the opportunity to sign and have notarized a Declaration of Life document ... September 21st is the **UN's International Day for Peace** ... **Mohawk Valley PC** in Utica, NY had the opening reflection of their Stations of the Cross posted on the website of their local newspaper ... September 21-27 is a week of actions for **Campaign Nonviolence**. PCUSA is a partner and encourages groups to take action. Check out www.paceebene.org for more info ... **PC Texas** held their Annual Conference in Houston in April. **Fr. Bob Holmes, CSB** spoke on the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine and **Joe and Laura Marcinkowski** received the 2014 Pax Christi Texas Peacemaker Award ... October 4-11 is **Keep Space for Peace week**. Check out www.space4peace.org for more info.

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.

Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014

by Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby

ISAIAH 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 | 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 | MARK 13:33-37

“Why do you let us wander, O God?” (Isaiah 63:17)

As we begin this season of Advent, of waiting and preparing, it seems comforting to think of God as the potter, and we, the clay. If we could just relax, and maybe just sit quietly, and stay still long enough, we could be shaped into exactly what God intended. Ready as a sturdy pinch pot to live the awareness of incarnation! But like Isaiah, I wish that knowing God in our midst just took a little silent reflection time. Hearing this lament – “Why do you let us wander, O God?” – I must smile, because I know my hunger for God, yet how willful I am to do it MY way.

Why must we wander? Can't God just tell us all what to do? For better or for worse, even when Jesus walked the earth, this wasn't the plan. Our God of love won't come stomping down the heavenly staircase to set straight our wandering. Paul tells us that through God, we are “enriched in every way . . . not lacking in any spiritual gift.” We have started our journey with a guide in our very being. God hums in us at every moment. We just need eyes to see and ears to hear. We can't shy away from decisions we face or the work to be done and simply wait for God to come. God is already here.

Through our wanderings, our questions, our encounters with beauty and with pain, the God within us is revealed. Advent is waking up to God in our midst. It is in the wandering that our eyes are open to the deeper truth. So let us not sleep through Advent. Let us wander with our eyes open, ready for adventure.

What surprising gifts have wandering brought to you? How have you seen God alive in your seeing the pain of our world?



ADVENT 2014

PAX CHRISTI USA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE our 2014 Advent reflection booklet, a compilation focusing on our economic and interracial justice in the United States priority initiative, written by four compelling voices of our time:

**Simone Campbell, SSS
Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D.
Adrienne Alexander
Joseph Nangle, ofm**

with an introduction by Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN

**CONTACT OUR RESOURCE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OR TO PLACE YOUR PRE-PRINTING ORDER:
sales@paxchristiusa.org or 814-520-6245 – quantity and wholesale discounts available**

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has responded to the “Special Appeal.” If you have not had a chance to send in your donation, not to worry! You can use the “Peace Fund” slip in this mailing to send in a donation or you can go to the Pax Christi USA website, click on the “Special Appeal” button, and give quickly and securely with your credit card through our website. **Perhaps you'd like to become a “sustainer”, supporting the work of Pax Christi USA through a monthly debit charged to your credit card?** You can use the flip side of the “Peace Fund” slip to become a sustainer or call our office at 202-635-2741 and we'll help get it set up for you. Sustainers are so essential to the financial health of our organization because monthly donations allow us to budget and plan with greater security and flexibility. We hope you'll consider becoming a sustainer today. **Thanks for all the ways you support Pax Christi USA!** We are so very grateful! May the peace of Christ be with you!

Peacemaking Quote

“Christians whose loyalty to the Prince of Peace puts them out of step with today's nationalistic world, because they are willing to love their nation's friends but not to hate their nation's enemies, are not unrealistic dreamers who think that by their objections they will end all wars. On the contrary, it is those who think they can put an end to wars by preparing for just one more.”

~ John Howard Yoder