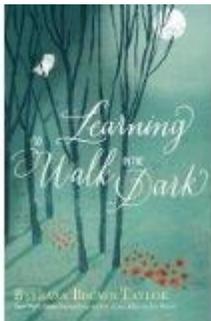




Coordinator's Corner

By Pat Ferrone

Recently, I came across a book at the library entitled *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, a spiritual journal in which Barbara Brown Taylor, an ordained Episcopal priest, writes of her desire to become better acquainted with darkness - culturally and psychically associated with the shadowy side of life and things from which to run and hide; often fear-based and coupled with a



sense of dread. Judging by the chapter titles, her approach seems to be one of disengaging from fear's grip by delving into the murkiness in search of the treasure the dark may yield.

I have only perused its pages, but I am intrigued by the book's title, and intuit a connection between our work as people of Pax Christi and the metaphor it provides. Who among us, if the truth be known,

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hasn't experienced the weight of the dark as we expose the open pores of our soul to the reality of ubiquitous human pain. Even as I write, U.S. "humanitarian" bombing is going on in northern Iraq, the incongruity of the two words reminding us of the warp of double-speak. And, speaking for ISIS, purportedly the target of the bombs, one fighter says, "The planes attack positions they think are strategic, but this is not how we operate. We are trained for guerrilla street war. God is with us and our promise is heaven. When we are promised heaven, do you think death will stop us?" This reminds us of the righteousness that upholds the stance of justified violence by all who wield the sword, inevitably fueling deeper hatred and further conflict.

Elsewhere, the Israeli Defense Force pummels Gaza with the blessing of U.S. funds, and the number of civilians who are annihilated or terribly wounded, mounts. Dr. Motna El-Farra, Director of Gaza Projects for Middle East Children's Alliance agonizes over the loss of 9 family members in a bombing, many of them children, reminding us of the grievousness of "Operation Protective Edge," and the corroding effects of such horror on the generations to come. Dr. Jesse Ghanan, a clinical psychologist

Continued on page 2

Campaign Nonviolence Plans National Launch

By Mike Moran

On Friday, April 11, 2014, four members of the Pax Christi Western MA local group – Sr. Jane Morrissey, Jeanne Allen, the late Pat Roberts (see tribute on page 9), and Mike Moran – crossed the Connecticut state line to hear John Dear speak at St. Bridget's Church in Manchester, CT about a new



John Dear

national project for which he's serving as Outreach Coordinator – Campaign Nonviolence.

Initiated by Pace e Bene, the

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NOTE: To promote a greener future with a leaner budget, print copies of future issues of this newsletter will be mailed only to our readers who have no access to email.

Coordinator's Corner

Continued from page 1

with the UN Relief Works Agency speaks of 9-year-olds in Gaza who have “spent whole lives experiencing the terror of ruthless violence.” He goes on to say, “The innate human compassion that every single human is born with is drowned with the blood of their people, leaving these children as empty shells with their only hope of survival becoming filled with hatred and violence...they will become like their oppressors – ruthlessly inhuman and unaffected by bloodshed.” And so, this fate for the children of Israel, as well, and all other children victimized by violence and war.

These are the ‘current events’ that come to us with our evening meal and the nightly news, representing only a miniscule portion of a world groaning in pain. There is no place to hide, though we may be tempted to seek refuge in ignorance or distractions. Even engaging with these realities from a distance, we easily become distraught and are sometimes unable to muster the emotional energy to respond to the injustice and violence discernible in our own country – for instance, racist killing of youth by militarized police, and refugees who linger at our borders, despised as ‘others.’

It may be no exaggeration to suggest that we have created a world where a form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may well become the over-riding diagnosis for a civilization that proffers violence on a massive scale as a way of solving human dilemmas, and then watches as its

diabolical, dark energy retaliates by victimizing everyone.

So, with the darkness closing in, how do we proceed? How DO we learn to walk in the dark so as not to be overcome? How do we as Pax Christi people live with the darkness of unanswered questions and limited perspective and become the witnesses to hope and the healers of wounds?

I can only offer a few of the ideas that keep me ‘at it’ - this vocation of peacemaking and reconciliation: Recognize that we dwell in the heart of Mystery. Don’t go it alone – remember we are accompanied by the Spirit and by one another. Start a nonviolent revolution of love by cultivating clarity, courage and compassion in one another. Speak up, speak out – write letters, go the extra mile, then walk another 1000 steps. Be quiet, pray, listen, read, and respond where your talents and heart take you.

Nourish creativity. Recognize limitations. Be small, but think large. Don’t believe the propaganda – war is not peacemaking - our children should not be trained to kill one another. Tell the truth to both prelates and plebeians. Practice love in all things. Be merciful. Expect answers to prayer. Fast in solidarity with others for the sake of the prisoner and the forsaken.

Challenge the lies. Pay attention to the prophets and witnesses who suffer the consequences of their commitment to the gospel. Share the lives of the forsaken. Take time to rest and find joy. Be kind. Let your heart break with love for this world; wish to save it from destruction. Walk in the light of Christ. Become that light for

others. Uphold one another. Call for help when discouraged. Catch the breeze and the breath of the Holy Spirit and be inspired. Nourish your dreams and plant tiny seeds of hope. Believe they will bear fruit.

In June, I joined the national staff and council of Pax Christi USA, the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team, and coordinators from thirteen Pax Christi regions throughout the country for a gathering in D.C. organized by the national staff. A general session of all participants was held, at which time Sr. Patty shared information about the current status of Pax Christi USA – both the hard work and commitment of the national staff and the current, major, financial crisis of PCUSA.



Sr. Simone Campbell, Sr. Patty Chappell, and Atty. Mary Meg McCarthy at PCUSA (PCUSA)

To highlight just a few things: Revenue is very limited and doesn’t begin to approximate the cost of maintaining an office and paying salaries and benefits to the staff, some of whom are working fewer hours.

Because Pax Christi USA is a division of Pax Christi International, PCUSA is required to pay a monthly assessment to International. At this time, we are

in arrears with payment. Current methods of raising money to keep the organization afloat and thriving have not been very effective, and though a Development person would be valuable to the organization, there is no money to hire one. As a result, development is done on a piecemeal basis.

Sr. Patty and staff are looking for new, creative, and realistic ideas and goals to help get PCUSA back on track. I make a plea to all of you who read this to be certain that at least your yearly dues of \$40 to Pax Christi USA are paid up. We are indebted to the national organization, and inspired by their dedication to the work of peacemaking. I would suggest that you consider a regular, monthly donation to Pax Christi USA. Also, if you have any experience with creative fund-raising, perhaps using the Internet, come forth and share your ideas with Sr. Patty and the national leadership. This subject will find a place on the agenda of our Pax Christi MA board meeting in September for discussion as well.

Ample time was allotted for the regional leaders to gather together in support and faith sharing, and for discussion about regional commitments and concerns. Most of those present expressed some degree of struggle and conflict in their relationship with the institutional church. Though communal worship and Eucharist and the bonding within community were mentioned as reasons most choose to stay within the structure, common themes of discontent related to the mission of Pax Christi within the larger church included a sense of “guardedness” about what one can say in certain situations, and antagonism from local pastors and bishops to the promotion of the nonviolent gospel of Jesus.

Other provocative questions came up following a PowerPoint presentation by Kathy O’Leary, who used the “Battle of Jericho” as a metaphor for considering the issues of today: “What does it mean to be a peacemaker at the center of empire?” and “Where is the institutional church in the modern Jericho story?” Another question pertaining specifically to the mission of Pax Christi was expressed: “Who are we as Pax Christi? Are we encumbered by involving ourselves in too many issues, or is our mission essence related to specifically addressing issues of militarism and war?”



Pax Christi Regional Leaders at PCUSA; Pat Ferrone is standing fourth from left (PCUSA)

A good deal of time was spent discussing the report issued in March, 2014 by a Regional Leaders Task Force on Just War Theory (JWT). The report capably outlined the historical development of JWT within the Church, and provided both pragmatic and gospel-based reasons why it’s time for Pax Christi USA and the Church to specifically and publicly disavow JWT as an illegitimate and historically disastrous expression of the Will of God as incarnated by Jesus, the Christ.

It said, “For us as Christians, a more fundamental objection to the JWT is that it is incompatible with the teaching and example of Jesus, who taught us to love and forgive our enemies...and who rejected the use of violence even in legitimate

self-defense...For us, a resort to violence reveals a failure to trust in God and God’s purposes in every human situation.” The Task Force provided four options for consideration to the regional coordinators, including Option 3, the one affirmed by all those present: “Urge the Church to (a) adopt gospel nonviolence as the only stance consistent with Christian discipleship and actively teach and promote just peace alternatives to warfare and military service, and (b) reject the use of military force by governments, advocating for just peacebuilding approaches to dealing with international relations.”

The Task Force also pointed out that some mainline Christian denominations, other than the Historic Peace Churches, are also currently wrestling with JWT. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is the first mainline denomination to disavow the JWT, in 1985; the United Methodist Church (UMC) believes that “war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ” and “reject(s) war as an instrument of national foreign policy;” and the Presbyterian Church “(s)eeks clarity as to God’s call to the church to embrace nonviolence as its fundamental response to the challenges of violence, terror, and war.”

Following the vote, a small group was formed to work at fine-tuning their suggestions on how to promote the consensus opinion that fidelity to Jesus’s Way of gospel nonviolence requires that Pax Christi USA name and reject the Just War Theory. These will be presented to the national staff and representatives when completed.

Finally, we can all trust that we have brothers and sisters in Pax Christi who labor long and hard on behalf of the gospel of peace. The “Momentum” gathering on

Saturday evening brought to conclusion the intense work of the weekend. It was a celebratory event at which time Attorney Mary Meg McCarthy received the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award for her work as Executive Director of Heartland Alliance National Immigration Justice Center on immigration rights. Through her efforts, 10,000 people are served each year by a staff of 40 and the pro bono work of 1000 pro bono attorneys.

The dynamism of Sr. Simone Campbell of NETWORK was apparent in her role as keynote speaker. She spoke of four ideas and practices to consider for effective peacemaking: (1) Wherever we are, engage with others about important issues relating to the Common Good; (2) Unity will prevail over conflict – make connections with those who disagree with you; (3) Reality is more important than ideas: tell the real stories that break people’s heart; (4) The whole is greater than the parts: call people into “choir and community,” but do your part, recognizing that “blessed and broken you are enough!”

I send you blessings of peace. May we all magnify God’s love in all our efforts as peacemakers of the gospel of Jesus.

Pat Ferrone is Coordinator of Pax Christi Massachusetts.

Campaign Nonviolence...

Continued from page 1

Campaign plans a national launch during the week of September 21-27, 2014. Pace e Bene National Service was founded in 1989 by the Franciscan Friars of California

and is now an independent, nondenominational organization based in Long Beach, CA. Its name (“Peace and All Good”) derives from a greeting used by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi to convey a wealth of meaning: “May you have the fullness of well-being; may you be secure and happy; may you not want; may your dignity be respected; may the goodness in your inmost being flourish; may the world in which we live know this deep peace.”

The goals of Campaign Nonviolence reflect this same spirit of universal peace and well-being. Its web site calls the campaign “a long-term movement to build a culture of peace by mainstreaming active nonviolence and by joining the enduring, nonviolent struggle to abolish



Campaign Nonviolence uses this global peace symbol created by Afghan women (Pace e Bene)

war, end poverty, reverse climate change, and challenge all violence.” Its “vision is rooted in an understanding of nonviolence as a force for truth, justice, and the well-being of all that is neither passive nor violent,” citing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s definition of nonviolence as “the love that does justice.”

The organizers believe that “in the face of the enormous violence and injustice we face today... we are called to mainstream active nonviolence by living nonviolence, studying the principles and

methods of nonviolence, sharing the stories of nonviolence, building the means of nonviolence, and taking nonviolence public – in our neighborhoods, schools, religious communities, organizations, cities, and societies.” At this writing over 130 local actions are being planned in almost every state in the country for the week of September 21-27, which begins with the International Day of Peace established by the United Nations in 1982.

In early July, with John Dear’s inspiring words still ringing in our ears, members of the Pax Christi Western MA local group initiated a committee in Springfield which has been meeting biweekly through the summer to plan one or more events launching Campaign Nonviolence in our area. The committee now has representatives from many religious communities, including the pastor of a local African-American congregation who recently organized a nonviolent “Eyes on the Street” program to deter further violence in a neighborhood where several young people were killed earlier this year.

Our current plans call for a march on Sunday afternoon, September 21, from Springfield’s downtown historic district to a school in a minority neighborhood where the threat of violence is a daily reality. Marchers are being recruited through civic organizations and religious institutions, speakers are being approached for a brief program at the end of the march, and the event is being promoted with local media outlets.

The march route up State Street will pass several landmarks with connections to peace, especially the Springfield Armory, once a primary source of U.S. military weapons until its closing in 1968

to make way for the campus of Springfield Technical Community College, where it is now a national historic site and museum.

Coincidentally, it was during the same weekend when John Dear spoke in Connecticut that the museum's current director, Captain James Woolsey, published an appeal in the Springfield *Republican* newspaper for readers to submit ideas that could save the former Armory commander's home, which has fallen into disrepair at the site. Recalling Longfellow's famous poem "The Arsenal at Springfield" and describing her own experience of the city's recent problems with violence, Sr. Jane promptly suggested that the home should be repurposed as a center for education in peace and nonviolence.

An annual Mass sponsored by Pax Christi in memory of the martyrs of Central America and hosted by PC member Georgina Moroney at her home near Northampton will close the launch week for Campaign Nonviolence on Saturday, September 27, with the hope of peace and reconciliation in that troubled part of the world and in our own communities at home.

The Campaign planning committee is discussing other possible events during that week, but we are committed to making our local Campaign an ongoing one, which will feature a monthly walk in a different Springfield neighborhood and events at local religious institutions, colleges, and public libraries to probe the causes of violence and the need for nonviolent solutions to conflicts at all levels.

A peace center at the Springfield Armory is one of many visions which we hope will emerge from Campaign Nonviolence in western
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Massachusetts. We also hope Pax Christi members elsewhere in the state will join us in spreading the



Commander's home at Springfield Armory National Historic Site (mass.historicbuildingsct.com)

positive momentum of this powerful movement to their communities and beyond.

Unless otherwise noted, all direct quotations in this article are from <http://paceebene.org>. More information about and resources for Campaign Nonviolence are available there.

Local Group Updates

Beverly Pax Christi Sr. Linda Bessom reports that PC Beverly: (1) will hold a fall retreat Oct. 24 – 26, 2014 in Wells, ME led by Nancy Small: "Seizing the Nonviolent Moments: Reflections on the Spirituality of Nonviolence Through the Lens of Scripture" (from her upcoming new book with the same title)...(2) They are working to get Massachusetts House Bill 135 (An Act Providing Housing and Support Services to Unaccompanied Homeless Youth) released favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee so that the Massachusetts legislature can vote on it. They have met with the Beverly State representative, written Letters to the Editor, and members have contacted their own legislators and Rep. Dempsey, Chair of House Ways and Means. There are 6000 youth (24 years old

and younger) experiencing homelessness and on their own, and an estimated 900 unaccompanied youth in Essex County alone. Now that the Legislature has entered a period of informal session, there could be an opportunity in September for this Bill to be addressed. For folks who want to be educated on this issue and become involved, please call Sr. Linda Bessom SND, 781-595-7570 x 18...(3) With the invitation to collaborate with people of color on justice issues from Pax Christi USA Executive Director, Sr. Patricia Chappell SND, we have worked with Essex County Community Organizing (ECCO) on the Safe Driving Bill, and the two ballot questions on Raising the Minimum Wage, and Paid Sick Leave.

Boston Pax Christi Chris Abbey reports that PC Boston has: (1) continued to advocate for a complete stop to the Level 4 research planned at the Boston University Biological Research Laboratory; they have attended Boston City Council hearings and meetings; spoken to individual Boston City Councilors to gain their support for an ordinance to ban the establishment of the lab. The ordinance did not pass, meaning the Boston City Council has approved research on the most dangerous of organisms, including Ebola, in a most vulnerable and population congested area of inner city Boston. This decision seems extremely dangerous considering the current situation in West Africa with people dying by the hundreds from out-of-control infection with Ebola. They have worked with community action groups, lawyers and scientists for over 10 years to pressure Boston University, health officials, and government leaders to consider these dangers and are still supporting the coalition in seeking alternative ways to stop the lab...(2) They continue to

support people against reopening nuclear power plants in Japan after the Fukushima disaster. There has been weekly vigiling during the Spring and Summer outside the Japanese Embassy in Boston... (3) They have invited Pope Francis to visit Boston in person on his mission of Global Peace. We have requested that he urge Cardinal Sean O'Malley to stop the ROTC and Jr.ROTC programs in the Catholic schools and colleges of the Boston Archdiocese. We want the Pope to personally encourage the clergy and educators to teach Gospel love, reconciliation and peace in our schools and churches, instead of supporting the American culture of militarism...they hope the 2014 PCMA Assembly may help move this peace effort ahead.

La Salette Pax Christi Ron Holman reports that The Walk for a New Spring, an annual event sponsored by the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA, stopped at the LaSalette Shrine on March 9th 2014. After a short rest the walk continued through Attleboro to the overnight stop for the day with several members of the LaSalette Peace Community joining them.



The Walk (shown above) is an educational and awareness event with an emphasis to engage and educate our elected representatives on peace, justice and environmental issues. The next day a meeting was held with Lisa Nelson, Congressman Joseph Kennedy's Senior District

representative. The meeting proved worthwhile, with a promise to continue the dialogue with him.

“I Was in Prison...”

By Pat Ferrone

In January 2013, I began to exchange letters with an inmate on Death Row in Florida through the Community of Sant'Egidio. Founded in Rome in 1968, the community's mission includes abolition of the death penalty, and facilitating “Pen-Friend” relationships between Death Row inmates and those called to perform works of mercy in this way. Currently, 350 condemned prisoners, most in the United States, receive regular letters.

My friend, Marc James Asay, is a 51 year old Floridian who has been incarcerated on Death Row since the age of 23, guilty of a double murder for which he is deeply repentant, and for which he takes full responsibility. Recently, he was informed that all his appeals have been exhausted and that his life may end at any time. Governor Rick Scott holds the record in Florida for the number of first-term executions – 18 to date; thirteen in the past two years! With passage of the “Timely Justice Act” last year, designed to reduce delays in carrying out executions, many more can be expected.

Marc writes of this news, “I’m sure that God will see me through whatever is before me. I will walk in faith – trusting in our Lord.” On Good Friday this year, I read aloud Marc’s reflection for the 11th Station (Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross) at the State House in Boston (see page 9). Please consider joining this work. See: www.santegidio.org

Ignatius, Raymond, and Franz

Rev. John McDonagh, Director of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Springfield, celebrated the annual Mass sponsored by Pax Christi Western MA in honor of Franz Jagerstatter for broadcast on the local NBC affiliate’s “The Chalice of Salvation” on August 24, 2014 and delivered this homily.

Surrounded by temples and shrines dedicated to many gods in Caesarea Philippi, Peter acknowledges Jesus in today’s Gospel: “You are the Son of the Living God.” Surrounded by secularism, we ratify our faith in Jesus, as the Son of the Living God. Our tradition understands Jesus as the reconciler, the bridge builder, and the peacemaker.

Welcome, members of Pax Christi, who repeatedly call us to live in peace. Thank you for your constant beckoning us to peace. Your voice challenges us, startles us, and inspires us. You invite us to see the possibility to resolve international conflicts and our relationship difficulties in nonviolent ways.

Though war weary, we all recognize the courage, valor, service, and loyalty of military personnel as honorable. We are indebted to our veterans, both those who perished in war zones and those who survived, many dealing with lingering trauma. The call to nonviolence and the sacrifice of soldiers mystify us. Peacemaking is hard work. Like soldiering, it requires courage, risk, strategy and sacrifice.

I would like, first, to discuss Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, a conscientious objector; secondly, St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits;

and, finally, Fr. Raymond Helmick, SJ, a contemporary expert in international relations, as they offer us nonviolent ways to conduct our international and personal relationships.

First, Franz Jagerstatter. As a young Austrian father called to serve the Nazis during World War II, with the consistent support of Franziska, his wife, Franz refused military service with the Nazis. His decision cost him his life. Pope Benedict declared him a martyr and beatified him in 2007.



Franz Jagerstatter (PCUK)

Gordon Zahn, his biographer and a cofounder of Pax Christi USA, writes that Franz was wilder than other young farmers in his area: “He always seemed ready for a fight.” He participated in and even led some local gang activity tormenting a neighboring community. After some serious difficulty in his town, Franz left home and worked in the mines for three years. During that period, he unlearned what he had learned. Such time away for young adults is not unheard of today: college, an internship, or volunteering.

Upon his return, Franz’s friends described him as ‘a new man,’ who soon married Franziska. While away, Franz had decided not to fight with the Nazis. Franziska, his wife, trusted Franz and his decision – though very costly to her and their three young daughters over the years.

Franz and other conscientious objectors cannot make nonviolent stands in isolation. Franz found

support from his wife and family as well as from compatriots in prison. Possibilities of mutual encouragement and support exist for all of us who are interested in nonviolence: Pax Christi’s monthly meetings at Elms College offer one source of support. Campaign Nonviolence activities in the Springfield area beginning September 21 will offer us more opportunities and support for living nonviolently.

Secondly, Ignatius of Loyola. A former soldier who eventually founded the Jesuits, Ignatius also offers us guidance on living nonviolently. In his instructional handbook, *Spiritual Exercises*, written for spiritual directors, Ignatius offers a series of directions for prayer and contemplation designed to help a person on retreat decide on a way of life in imitation of Christ. What I find exciting about Ignatius’ appreciation of nonviolence is a remarkable page at the very beginning of the book, what he calls “A Presupposition” to the *Spiritual Exercises*.

Ignatius here advises the spiritual director to assume both the goodness and the perspective of the retreatant. The paragraph scandalized many editors of the *Spiritual Exercises*, so much so that some excluded it from their editions or mistranslated it. They printed that the spiritual director should try to change the retreatant’s point of view, though Ignatius wrote just the reverse.

Finally, I want to cite Fr. Raymond Helmick, SJ. A current scholar engaged in resolving complicated international conflicts, he finds Ignatius’ encouragement to see the good in the other person beneficial in his peacemaking work. Fr. Helmick, who has worked in a number of volatile situations such

as Northern Ireland, Palestine and Israel, came to see his task as trying to decipher what was really going on in these conflicts. He writes that such an attempt demands respectful conversation with every faction. He found that people in conflict detest the fact that they are isolated from one another. They wish to understand what makes the other side tick. They welcome a process of interpretation that involves the others, and their participation in such a process, even at second hand, often leads to their being able to communicate directly with one another.

The basic lesson of all three examples is that we should always treat the other person in a conflict with full respect. We should make the utmost effort to hear the other’s needs and aspirations clearly and to appreciate the other’s point of view. When we, as outsiders, become partisans of either or any side of a conflict, we are surplus baggage for the real participants and sufferers. Instead, our most helpful task would be to respect all and, thus, to be partisans of peace.



Fr. John McDonagh (fordham.edu)

Current conflicts between nations and among ethnic groups ask us to understand their perspectives, grievances and hurts. Killings in our streets ask us to understand the roots of this violence. Perhaps Franz Jagerstatter still has the best answer: “Do we want to see Christians who don’t merely watch to see what their friends will do, but ask themselves ‘what does our faith teach us to do?’”

**Pax Christi Massachusetts 2014 Assembly
co-sponsored by Holy Cross Pax Christi**

“The Militarization of Youth”

With Rev. Sam Smith

Saturday, November 1, 2014, College of the Holy Cross

Hogan Campus Center, 4th Floor, Suite ABC

Registration begins at 8:30 – Program 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Rev. Sam Smith, an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, has served for over 16 years as a Youth Pastor in Mennonite, Brethren and United Methodist congregations. He holds a Master of Divinity with emphasis in Peace Studies. Rev. Sam has been deeply engaged with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and has been a primary promoter of the I Will Not Kill campaign. He currently directs DePaul University students as service learners in this counter-recruitment campaign.



Registration Form

Name _____ **Street Address** _____

City/State _____ **Phone/E-mail** _____

Suggested Donation - \$35 at the door, \$30 if postmarked by October 20. (Lunch is Included). Suggested Student Donation - \$15

I would like to be an Assembly Sponsor and will donate an additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to help defray the cost of the Assembly.

**Please mail Registration Form and check made out to “Pax Christi MA” to:
Ronald Holman, 15 Chris Drive, N. Attleboro, MA 02760**

Remembering Pat Roberts – A “Valiant Woman”

By Mike Moran

When Pat Roberts died on July 14, 2014, the Pax Christi Western MA local group lost one of its most durable, active, and beloved members. Pat and her husband Fred Roberts, who died in 2009, were among the founding members of our group, and both participated in our meetings and activities until just weeks before their deaths.

Pat and Fred would probably have considered raising their six daughters and one son their greatest accomplishment in life, but they also left us so much more than their wonderful children. Both struggled with physical hardships and limitations, especially in their later years, but neither let those issues limit their commitment to peace and their dedication to Pax Christi.

It’s hard to talk about one without the other, but they had very different, though obviously compatible and even complementary, personalities, as their marriage flourished for 56 years. Pat was the quieter and more reflective of the two, but she held and expressed her convictions just as strongly as Fred did his. And it was after Fred’s passing that Pat’s special qualities came more fully into view for me.

When Pat moved into an assisted-living facility several years ago in Agawam, the town where she and Fred had raised their family, I was privileged to drive her to and from many of our local group’s monthly meetings. I had always known Pat as a peacemaker, but it was during our 15-minute road conversations both ways that I learned how deeply committed she still was to
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peacemaking wherever she found herself.

Though she stayed in close and regular contact with her children and grandchildren, most of her daily interactions were now with her neighbors in the Quail Run community, many of whom resisted the limits of their current lives. I was impressed (but not surprised) to hear, both in our conversations and at our group meetings, how Pat’s patient acceptance of her own limitations and her continuing joy in the endless possibilities of life helped so many of her neighbors bear their own burdens more lightly.



Pat Roberts (photo courtesy of Debbie & Dick Kirk)

At a Mass in Pat’s memory arranged by her daughter Debbie Roberts Kirk and her family in their parish church, Mary, Queen of the Rosary, in Spencer, MA, the first reading (Proverbs 31:10-31) reflected on the virtues of a good wife and mother. In his homily Fr. Jim Hoey, the parish pastor, noted that the subject of this reflection is sometimes translated as a “valiant woman.”

This is the Pat I knew and loved, a valiant woman of energy, courage, and grace, whose example will always inspire me to live and love life to the fullest of my ability, as she did so well. Rest in peace, dear friend and teacher.

The 11th Station: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

By Mark James Asay

I am a Florida Death Row inmate, and I’ve been living in the shadow of death here since 1988. I was only 23 years old when I was sentenced to death for two counts of first degree murder... Over the many years, I’ve spent countless hours in prayerful meditation over how my life unfurled and how I lost my way... Thankfully, Our Lord is a Merciful and Loving Father, and He has, through the Holy Spirit, enlightened me to the reality of His existence and love, which He would have us emulate. In my early years... I brought much shame and dishonor on myself and others... Today I live in a state of constant remorse for the harm and disadvantage that I caused to others and myself... Thankfully, our Heavenly Father, through the cross of Jesus Christ, will deliver us as we are all His beloved children and this deliverance is achieved through Mercy and Truth, not vengeance... I was indeed once lost in such darkness which is a cold, lonely, and desperate hell. But the love authored and inspired by our Heavenly Father is a lamp unto our feet... I continue to live in this shadow of death not knowing if or when I may be put to death by the State in the name of the people – in the name of Justice, in the hope that if we keep trying, then perhaps someday the use of evil will result in all that is good and prosperous... Lord have Mercy on us.

Excerpts from a reflection written for and read by Pat Ferrone on Good Friday 2014 (see page 6). For more information, see: www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

Saint Francis Day, October 4th 2014, 10:00am

A Vital Conversation: Integrating Ecology, Justice and Peace

featuring keynote speakers

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John
Grim



Co-Directors of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University and Executive Producers of the film, "Journey of the Universe"

with an activist panel to include



FRIDA BERRIGAN writes the Little Insurrections column for Waging Nonviolence, serves on the board of the War Resisters League and is active with Witness Against Torture. She and her husband Patrick Sheehan-Gaumer are raising three kids.



BEN THOMPSON, a graduate student at Boston University studying Mathematics, is an active member of *Students for a Just and Stable Future* and *350 Massachusetts*.



PATRICK CAGE, a senior at Yale College studies Christian eco-spirituality. He intends to continue exploring the relationship between Christianity and environmentalism following graduation.



MIDWIVES OF MYSTERY, an enigmatic, musical force, catch the truth as it is delivered to us from the universe, and stand as witnesses to the continuous flow of beauty. Musical performances will also feature folk rock performer, **CHRIS NAUMAN**.

We will only serve refreshments...trying to simplify, reduce and reuse. So please bring your own brown bag lunch and dinner. We also welcome overnight guests!

Tours of Agape's solar energy, straw bale house, compost toilet, grease car and garden
2062 Greenwich Rd. Ware, MA 01082 peace@agapecommunity.org 413-967-9369 www.agapecommunity.org

Annual Appeal Results 2013-2014

By Ronald Holman

Our annual appeal results this year bridged two fiscal (accounting) years because we began later than usual. We raised \$2,325 in 2013 and \$1,160 in 2014 for a total of \$3,485. The Board and Finance Committee are exploring ways to maximize the benefits of our members' donations in advancing the cause of peace and reconciliation. Thank you all for your support both financially and in the many other ways you support our work.

Ron Holman is PCMA Treasurer.

St. Francis Day 2013 at Agape

By Mike Moran

Agape's 31st anniversary St. Francis Day program on Saturday, October 5, 2013 focused on the theme of "Faith and the Environment: Prayer and Action." The program flyer had accordingly instructed the well over 100 attendees to "bring a brown bag for both lunch and dinner (as) we will only serve refreshments ... trying to simplify, reduce and reuse."

An opening prayer for the day reminded us that St. Francis began his life's work as a military veteran suffering from PTSD who rejected war and embraced nonviolence toward all forms of life. Keynote speaker Sr. Bernadette Bostwick described the mission of the Green Mountain Monastery, which she co-founded in Greensboro, VT with the late Passionist priest Fr. Thomas Berry, as respecting this same 'interconnectivity' of all life as the universe evolves, sometimes chaotically, but always creatively.

Summer-Fall 2014

Sr. Bernadette traced a "shift in consciousness" over the past few decades and the dawning of an "ecozoic era," in which humans live in a mutually sustaining relationship with the earth, to this Franciscan view of life. Humans must use our unique gift of self-reflection, she said, to "reinvent ourselves at the species level" and recognize that "all life is sacred," from plants and animals to "the communion of saints."



Sr. Bernadette Bostwick (Agape)

Roger Gottlieb, a professor of philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, examined recent patterns in American consumerism which have gradually put the entire planet, including the oceans, at catastrophic risk of irreversible damage. He showed how a common sense approach to our daily habits of consumption and waste disposal could begin reversing this direction.

Tom Cornell, Jr, described the satisfaction and fulfillment, along with the occasional inconveniences, of living off the grid as an organic farmer at Peter Maurin Farm in upstate New York, an affiliate of the New York Catholic Worker.

Shea Reister, a member of the "Creatively Maladjusteds," a group of young adults who have spent time at Agape over the years and who reject the status quo of American politics, focused on the campaign (still ongoing almost a year later) to pass Massachusetts

Senate Bill S1225, which would require the state pension plan to divest its direct holdings in fossil fuels within five years.

Uplifting music from Molly Scott and inspiring words from Jean Marchant, a Massachusetts woman ordained a priest in 2005, further strengthened the beloved community which left Agape at the end of the day to share the truth of nonviolent love with a broken world desperately in need of its healing power.

Coming Events...

September 27: 11:00 AM; 34th anniversary **Mass in memory of El Salvador Martyrs**; Tir Na Nog, 423 Florence Road, Florence, MA. Contact: 413-584-0339.

October 3: "**Journey of the Universe**" (DVD), with Tucker and Grim; Agape (RSVP)

October 4: **St. Francis Day**; Agape (see page 10).

November 1: **Pax Christi MA 2013 Assembly** (see page 8).

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2013-2014

<u>Coordinator:</u> Pat Ferrone 238 Harris Avenue Needham MA 02492 781-449-3890 patferrone@rcn.com	<u>Secretary:</u> Jeanne Allen 10 Sutton Place Easthampton MA 01027 413-527-0037 jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org
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<u>Treasurer:</u> Ronald Holman 15 Chris Drive N. Attleboro, MA 02760 508-695-3896 rholman55@comcast.net	<u>Newsletter Editor:</u> Mike Moran 135 Shearer Street Palmer, MA 01069 413-283-5716 moran3@comcast.net
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OTHER BOARD MEMBERS: Brian Ashmankas (Millbury); Nancy Carapezza (Wayland); Irene Desharnais (Jamaica Plain); Phil Harak (Southampton); Greg Joyce (Holy Cross College, Worcester); Sue Malone (Westborough); Sally Markey (Springfield); Rose Morrissey (Westborough); Marilyn Paul Lewis (Ludlow); Jeanelle Wheeler (Auburn).

Quarterly Board meetings (the next is Dec 13) are held in the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College in Worcester at 10 AM and are open to all PC Massachusetts members.

Local Groups

Beverly P.C.

Sr. Linda Bessom, SND
15 Bubier Street
Lynn, MA 01901-1704
(781)595-7570x18
linda@mahomeless.org
Mtgs 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
St. Mary's Convent

Boston (Citywide) P.C.

Christina Abbey
Paulist Center, 5 Park St
Boston, MA
(781) 286-5004
LNCabbey2004@yahoo.com
Mtgs 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM

Cape Cod P.C.

Edouard & Francoise Rocher
77 Old Post Road
Centerville, MA 02632
(508) 771-6737
Mtgs 2nd Wed, 9:30 AM
paxchristi-cc@comcast.net
Our Lady of Victory
Centerville, MA 02632

Central Mass P.C.

Sue Malone
45 Adams Street
Westborough, MA 01581-3610
(508) 366-2050
organurse@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Holy Cross College P.C.

Adam Sykura
College of the Holy Cross
1 College St, Box 2847
Worcester, MA 01610
ajsyku15@g.holycross.edu

Meetings and activities geared
to college calendar

Holy Cross Parish P.C.

221 Plumtree Road
Springfield, MA 01118
Martin & Sally Markey
(413)739-3278
parishsocialministry@gmail.com
Mtgs 1st Monday, 6:30 PM

Metro West P.C.

Faith Madzar
24 Grove Street
Natick, MA 01760
(508) 655-0268
fmadzar@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Middlesex P.C.

John Stella
107 Clocktower Drive, #206
Waltham, MA 02452
(781) 373-3613
Contact for meeting info

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette P.C.

Larry Rose
51 Old Stagecoach Road
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-399-7034
palrose@comcast.net
Mtgs 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:15
Chapel of Reconciliation

North Central Mass P.C.

Fr. Bob Bruso, St. Anthony
Church, 2 Beekman Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 342-4706
fatherbob@comcast.net

Contact for meeting info

Rhode Island P.C.

Bill Waters
(401) 438-6612
wjtwj157@gmail.com
Fr. Ray Tetrault
(401) 453-2415
St. William Parish
200 Pettaconsett Ave
Warwick, RI 02888
Mtgs last Sunday, 6:00 PM

St. John's Prep P.C.

St. John's Preparatory School
72 Spring Street
Danvers, MA 01923
Bill Mackinson
978-774-1057
wmackinson@stjohnsprep.org
Prayer for Peace, Tuesday
mornings, 7:45-8:00 AM

St. Susanna Parish P.C.

262 Needham Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Pat Ferrone
781-449-3890
parferrone@rcm.com
Contact for meeting info

Western Mass P.C.

Jeanne Allen
10 Sutton Place
Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-0037
jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 7:00 PM
Elms College, Chicopee

If you belong to a Pax Christi group that is not listed above, please let us know so we can add it to our list. If any information above is incorrect, please email corrections or additions to: moran3@comcast.net

Pax Christi Massachusetts
947 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
paxchristima@gmail.com
www.paxchristima.org