Seeing Through the Prism of Justice

50th Anniversary Conference

at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, VA

August 5-7, 2022
In order to protect the health and safety of Pax Christi USA national conference participants, all conference attendees must enter dates of COVID vaccination in their registration and may be asked to show proof of vaccination upon arrival to the conference.

As we are currently seeing a rise in the highly contagious BA.5 variant, we are especially aware of the vulnerability of participants in the 50+ age range. We encourage all participants to be boosted to the level for which your age group is currently allowed per CDC guidelines prior to travel and participation in the conference. If you have any concerns about your status leading up to the conference, we encourage you to test before traveling. To further mitigate the risk on-site for our older participants and those who are immunocompromised, we are asking participants to wear masks in the plenary and workshop spaces when we gather in large groups. Masks may be removed when eating, drinking, or speaking as presenters.

During the conference, if at any time you begin to feel ill or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, we ask you to please stay in your room and refrain from entering public spaces. We will have COVID rapid tests available for any participants wishing to test upon arrival or at any point during the course of the conference. Extra masks and sanitizer will be available on-site in public spaces.

We understand that we cannot mitigate all risks due to COVID, but we trust you will help us to make the conference as safe as possible for all who are participating.

**On-site:**

- Outside the Crystal Ballroom: Extra masks and COVID rapid tests will be available for participants to use if they are feeling ill.
- Additionally, we have ordered more tables than necessary for the main ballroom, so participants can space out as they feel comfortable.
Seeing Through the Prism of Justice

The National Conference title invites us to reflect on the image of a prism: a multi-sided piece of glass that reflects a spectrum (rainbow) of colors when light passes through it. Pax Christi USA seeks to bring the light of Gospel nonviolence to address injustice in the world and has done so for the past fifty years. The imagery provides a rich symbolism and sacramentality which workshops, keynote speakers, and liturgies can deepen throughout the conference. By inserting a more active concept of “seeing” through this prism of justice, the theme invites us to look back on our 50 years and shine light upon the future.

The conference planning committee, honorary committee, national staff, and national council welcome you to this momentous event!

Land Acknowledgment

written by Melissa Chapman Skinner, Standing Rock Nation, Santee Nation
Presentation College and Advocate and Training Assistant - Episcopal Church, Indigenous Ministries

The participants of the conference hereby acknowledge that Arlington, Virginia – the place where the 50th Anniversary Pax Christi USA Conference is being held – is located on the traditional ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank (or Anacostans), and neighbors the ancestral lands of the Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples, who have served as stewards of the region for generations. Arlington, Virginia is surrounded by just over a dozen tribal nations that thrive along the Anacostia and Potomac River watersheds, Chesapeake Bay area, and the states of Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware.

We humbly acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We are grateful for their past and continued stewardship of this land. We are committed to supporting the Indigenous members of our community and we celebrate the resilience, strength, and enduring presence of Indigenous people demonstrated around the world.

Welcome Letter from Bishop Burbidge

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the Diocese of Arlington as you gather from across the nation for the silver jubilee of Pax Christi USA. Unfortunately, due to previously scheduled commitments, I cannot be with you today, but know of my prayers for you during this time. May this conference be a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal for all of you.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and may his Holy Spirit lead and guide you in all your endeavors.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
National Conference Schedule

(Note that the schedule is subject to change)

Thursday (8/4) – Pre-Conference gatherings
1-6 pm: Meeting of Pax Christi USA’s state and regional chapter leaders/representatives (Wilson/Harrison)
6 pm: PCYAC annual business meeting (Jackson)
7:30 pm: Special Pax Christi USA showing of The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous with panel discussion to follow (Wilson/Harrison/Jackson)
9:30 pm: PCYAC social (location TBD)

Friday (8/5) – Official start to the Conference in the evening
9 am-12 pm: Meeting of Pax Christi USA’s state and regional chapter leaders/representatives (continued from Thursday, Wilson/Harrison)
9 am: PCYAC’s visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture
10 am-1 pm: Arrival and set-up for Vendors and Exhibitors (Lincoln Hall)
10-11:30 pm: Pax Christi USA National Council meeting (Jackson Room)
3 pm: Conference Registration Table opens (Crystal Ballroom Lobby)
4 pm: Hotel check-in (Main Lobby)
4-5 pm: Orientation and PCUSA 101 Session for first-time Conference attendees (Jackson)
(Dinner is on your own)
6:30 pm: Friday plenary room opens (Crystal Ballroom)
7 pm: Opening prayer/blessing (Crystal Ballroom)
7:30 pm: Welcoming remarks (Crystal Ballroom)
7:50 pm: Opening keynote with Archbishop John C. Wester; conversation with Archbishop Wester and Msgr. Ray East to follow (Crystal Ballroom)
9:15 pm: Closing prayer, wrap up and announcements (Crystal Ballroom)
9:30-10:30 pm: Post-plenary social (Salon A/B/C)

Saturday (8/6)
(Exhibitors will be open 8am through 10 pm)
7-8 am: Mass (Prayer Room, Salon D/E in Crystal Ballroom)
8-9 am: Buffet Breakfast (Crystal Ballroom Foyer)
8:45 am-5 pm: Little Friends for Peace Camp for children ages 4-12, meals included for staff and children (Liberty Room)
9 am: Morning prayer service (Crystal Ballroom)
9:15-10:30 am: Intergenerational plenary discussion (Crystal Ballroom)
10:30-10:45 am: Small group sharing (Crystal Ballroom)
10:45-11:15 am: Break
11:15 am-12:45 pm: Workshops (see room list in registration packet)
12:30-2 pm: Lunch and book-signing (Crystal Ballroom) and visiting exhibitors (Lincoln Hall)
2-3:30 pm: Workshops (see room list in registration packet)
3:45-4:15 pm: Centering Prayer led by Contemplative Outreach of Maryland and Washington (Prayer Room, Salon D/E in Crystal Ballroom)
4:15-5 pm: Small group sharing (Crystal Ballroom)
(Break between 5 and 6:30 pm; other groups are welcome to caucus during this time)
6pm: Check-in table opens for Banquet Dinner
6:30-9:30 pm: 50th Anniversary Banquet Dinner and program (Crystal Ballroom)

Sunday (8/7)
If you will be attending the Prayer Witness in the afternoon, please remember to check out of your hotel room in the morning and store your luggage behind the desk in the lobby.
8-9 am: Breakfast (Crystal Ballroom Foyer)
9-10 am: Morning plenary – Presentation of 2022 Teacher of Peace Award (Crystal Ballroom)
10 am: Break to set up for liturgy (last opportunity to visit exhibitors)
10:30 am: Closing liturgy with Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. Commissioning of our new Ambassadors of Peace will take place at the end of the Mass (Crystal Ballroom)
11:45 am: Closing remarks and conference end (Hotel check-out and departures)
2-4 pm: Prayer Witness (meet in Crystal Ballroom at 2 pm, followed by procession to the Pentagon)

Tuesday (8/9)
12-1 pm: Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Nagasaki commemoration witness outside the White House for anyone still in town
Our History

In 1945, a small group of people in France met regularly to pray for peace. Their concern was not a vague one. What troubled them, what kept them coming together, was their experience of an agonizing and dreadful fact: French Catholics and German Catholics, who professed the same faith and celebrated the same Eucharist, had killed one another by the millions in the 20th century. That situation could hardly be the will of God, as they understood it. So they prayed for forgiveness, for reconciliation, for the peace of Christ.

A French woman, Marthe Dortel Claudot, is known as the leader and founder of the movement. She invited a French bishop, Pierre Marie Theas, to join her in this effort. While in a German prison camp in Compiegne during WWII, Bishop Theas had already begun to pray and work for reconciliation. Soon after the war, Pax Christi centers were established in France and Germany; by the early 1950s the movement had spread to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium. The 1970s included the founding of the U.S. section and continued growth. Currently, Pax Christi International has more than 120 member organizations in over 60 countries on five continents, with the fastest growing regions being Africa and Latin America. The international office and staff are primarily located in Brussels, Belgium. Pax Christi has consultative status as a non-governmental organization at the United Nations.

Wherever they live throughout the world — from Peru to New Zealand, the DR Congo to France, the United States to the Philippines, members of Pax Christi are united by their purpose, which is expressed in the international statutes: “To work for peace for all humankind, always witnessing to the peace of Christ.” We do this through prayer, study and action.

Pax Christi began in the United States in 1972, thanks to the initiative of a handful of U.S. Catholics. It was 50 years ago that a small group of mainly lay Catholics gathered together. Long-time CRS staff member Eileen Egan and sociologist-historian Gordon Zahn (who had uncovered the story of Franz Jaegerstaetter, Austrian resister to the Nazis) would join with Gerry Vanderhaar, Fr. Ed Guinan, Sr. Mary Evelyn Jegen SNDdeN, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Joe Fahey, and others – veterans of the anti-war movement, the farmworkers movement, and the civil rights movement. This small group would give birth to Pax Christi USA, with Eileen’s good friend Dorothy Day and other key Catholic peace activists contributing to the first “Pax Christi Affiliated Discussion”. Day would be the keynote speaker at Pax Christi USA’s first conference in 1973.
There was no full-time national office until 1979, when the office was set up in two spare rooms of a Chicago convent. The national office moved to Erie, Pennsylvania in 1985. In 2002, the Washington, D.C. office was opened, and the national office permanently moved to D.C in 2011.

Pax Christi USA has had the flexibility to change and adapt as the world has changed, embracing a variety of issues and shaping our identity to faithfully bring the message of the gospel to bear on what was happening in the world by reading the signs of the times. Our beginnings had us addressing the nuclear arms race (and we still are) and the Vietnam War. Pax Christi USA in the 1980s was at the forefront of the Sanctuary Movement. We built relationships with communities struggling under the oppression of colonization and U.S. foreign policy and U.S.-protected dictatorships, especially in Latin America – places like El Salvador and Guatemala, but also halfway around the world in the Philippines. Ending the use of the death penalty was also a major focus of our work. The 1990s saw Pax Christi USA deeply involved in solidarity with Haiti; embracing the new cosmology movement that examined our relationship to the earth; and examining who we were in a world that no longer was defined by East-West relationships, the Cold War and the war-peace paradigm. We responded to the new realities posed by the Global South to the Global North and the lens of oppression-liberation and issues of economic justice at home and abroad.

It was in 1995 that Pax Christi USA first began to explore how white supremacy and white privilege impacted our own efforts for peace and justice and how we might begin to engage ourselves and our work through an anti-racist lens. Brothers and Sisters All, a 20-year initiative to transform Pax Christi USA into an anti-racist, multicultural Catholic peace & justice movement, started in 1999. We committed to embrace this new identity and do all our work from an anti-racist perspective, in the conviction that personal and systemic racism continues to perpetrate deep spiritual and social brokenness and endangers creation. Like every organization in our country, Pax Christi USA was not exempt or immune to being shaped to serve the white supremacy that has been rightly called our nation’s original sin. We might have made the commitment to doing this work to become anti-racist 23 years ago, but this is truly generational work and ongoing.

The 2000s were in many ways defined by September 11, 2001 and the subsequent war on terror, including in Afghanistan and then Iraq, as well as our continuing internal work around our commitment to anti-racism, racial justice and racial equity. The 2010s witnessed Pax Christi USA leadership promoting and leading anti-racism workshops throughout Catholic communities, and later responding to the almost daily onslaught against human dignity that came with the policies of the Trump administration.

This year, Pax Christi USA is celebrating our 50th anniversary — a time to both honor our legacy and to chart new directions.

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**Peace Cranes**

“To fold an origami peace crane is to gently pray for healing and reconciliation. I learned the steps from my godson Wes in the early 1990s and I have carried this sustaining gift in all my travels, with many vivid memories. Japanese children wearing bright beanies, carrying cascading chains of cranes to the Sadako statue in Hiroshima. Godson Matt’s confirmation class folding 1,000 cranes for a girl with leukemia – and she is still with us. At Jerzy Popiełuszko’s beatification ceremony in Warsaw, folding 37 small red and white cranes for the years of his short life.
Folding more cranes in St. Peter’s Square, as Pope Francis raised Jerzy’s name in thanks for his faithful courage as chaplain to the Solidarity Movement. Coaxing a smile from a Haitian soldier. With arrestees at the Nevada nuclear test site; in Oak Ridge jail, folding tiny toilet paper cranes. Countering Santiago Matamoros—Saint James the Moor Slayer—along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. For a friend with cancer to offer to her caregivers at a rehab center. Honoring my mom’s good life with 89 cranes arranged on her casket. Filling a conference space with gifts of the spirit from Japanese-Americans and Veterans for Peace, each yearning for a future for all. No war. Lasting peace. It never gets old.”

- Judith Kelly, Ambassador of Peace (2022)

Judith’s quote above reminds us that the peace cranes – originating in Japan – are a symbol of peace, healing, and reconciliation, messages that speak to any place in the world where violence is present. During this conference, you are invited to fold your own peace crane! First, find the origami paper in your folder, then find the prompt on the next page and write your message(s), and finally, carry them with you to the prayer witness on Sunday afternoon. If you will not be able to attend, please place the crane(s) in the boxes near the entrance of the main gathering room located in the Crystal Ballroom.

PCUSA thanks Veterans for Peace (Seattle) and Tsuru for Solidarity for donating many of the peace cranes that you see around our gathering space this weekend. Veterans for Peace folded them to honor SOA Watch prisoners of conscience. Tsuru for Solidarity is a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities that are being targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies.

Before you fold your crane, write your response to this prompt on the paper and fold your paper following the directions below.

What does the future look like through the prism of justice?

Bring your crane to the prayer witness on Sunday afternoon. If you will not be able to attend, please place the peace crane(s) in the baskets near the entrance of the main gathering room located in the Crystal Ballroom.
Plenary Speaker Bios

Friday Evening:
Archbishop John C. Wester

Archbishop John C. Wester is the 12th archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico. In September 2017, Archbishop Wester traveled to Japan and visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His visit led him to assert how that “somber, sobering experience” led him to the realization “that on August 6, 1945, humanity crossed the line into the darkness of the nuclear age.” In January 2022, Archbishop Wester published *Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*, his pastoral letter on the urgent need for nuclear disarmament and avoiding a new nuclear arms race. This groundbreaking pastoral letter has the support of four Nobel Peace Prize laureates. With his letter, Archbishop Wester rejuvenated the peace work of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and invited the U.S. Catholic Church into a conversation on how to permanently end the nuclear threat, while encouraging life-affirming jobs in the cleanup and addressing climate change.

Msgr. Ray East

Msgr. Ray East is a recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award (2005) and a nationally known speaker and evangelist. He serves as the pastor of St. Teresa of Avila parish in Washington, D.C. and formerly served as the director of the Office of Black Catholics in the Washington, D.C. archdiocese. Msgr. East has preached at revivals, National Black Catholic Congresses, conferences and other spiritual gatherings across the country and around the world.

Saturday Morning: Intergenerational Moderated Discussion

The session is an intergenerational conversation with six individuals to explore the arc of the work for peace within Catholic circles from *Pacem in Terris* to *Fratelli Tutti* with special attention on Pax Christi USA’s challenges and contributions; the importance of an intersectional approach that makes explicit linkages between peacemaking, racism, consumerism, ecological justice, and LGBTQ inclusivity; and the future for Pax Christi USA and the Church around peacemaking for the next 50 years. Moderated by Roxana Bendezú, Pax Christi USA’s Program Director.

Cathy Crayton

Cathy Crayton was introduced to Pax Christi in 1986 and was a co-founder of her local Pax Christi group, Pax Christi Pomona Valley. She was a regional representative for Pax Christi Southern California before joining the National Council in 1997. As a Council member, Cathy was a collaborator in Pax Christi USA’s anti-racism initiative, Brothers and Sisters All, from which emerged the Pax Christi Anti Racism Team (PCART) in 2000. As a founding member of PCART and as part of the research and communication team for PCART, she helped develop and co-facilitate the 7.5-hour anti-racism workshop presented to local Pax Christi groups around the country. She has written significantly on the topic of anti-racism. Cathy has served on several committees and boards including NETWORK, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development advisory group, and the Justice and Peace Commission for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She is a member of the City of Claremont (California) Human Relations Committee. Cathy studied economics at Boston University and religious studies at Mt. St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles. Currently, she is a Project Specialist at the University of Southern California, where she has worked for the past 29 years.
Marie Dennis
Marie Dennis is senior advisor to the secretary general of Pax Christi International, the global Catholic peace movement, and program chair of Pax Christi’s Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. She was co-president of Pax Christi International from 2007 to 2019 and is a Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace. Marie worked for the Maryknoll Missioners from 1989 to 2012, including 15 years as director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. She holds a Master’s degree in moral theology from Washington Theological Union and honorary doctorates from Trinity Washington University and Alvernia University. She is author or co-author of seven books, editor of Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence (Orbis Books, 2017) and co-editor of Advancing Nonviolence in the Church and the World (Pax Christi International 2020). Marie was named Person of the Year by the National Catholic Reporter in 2016. She serves on the Vatican’s COVID-19 Commission and the steering committee of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. She has previously served on the national boards of Just Faith Ministries, the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Sojourners magazine and several other organizations. She is a lay woman, a secular Franciscan, a mother of six and a grandmother of nine. She strives to live simply and lightly on the earth, as well as to work for social transformation. Before moving to Assisi Community in 1987 where she continues to live, Marie and her family lived on and worked a 65 acre organic farm in Virginia.

Annie Killian, OP
Annie Killian, OP, is a postdoctoral fellow in Public Humanities at the University of Notre Dame. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Yale University, where she studied 15th-century religion and literature with a focus on women’s writing. Her current work involves community engagement and public scholarship for the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame. Killian was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. She has taught college writing courses on nonviolence, movements for social change, grief and the politics of lament. She has worked in prison ministry and education with the Wesleyan Center for Prison Education in Connecticut, Kolbe House Jail Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Moreau College Initiative at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. As a teacher and scholar, she is passionate about the humanities’ power to foster introspection and dialogue for the sake of the common good. Killian is a Dominican Sister of Peace and made her temporary profession of vows in July. She currently serves on the leadership team of the Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus.

Christina Leaño
Christina Leaño serves as Associate Director of the Laudato Si’ Movement, a worldwide network of 800+ Catholic organizations and thousands of individuals bringing Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ into action for climate justice. She brings over 25 years of leadership on social and environmental justice issues, including co-founder of the Filipino American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity. Christina is a trained meditation teacher and spiritual director drawing upon two decades of contemplative practice, including three years in a Catholic Cistercian monastery. She is passionate about exploring the intersection of spirituality and social justice and supporting people’s spiritual transformation through contemplative practices and engagement in social and ecological justice. Christina is trained in Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction through the University of San Diego Center of Mindfulness and is a graduate of the Community Dharma Leaders program through Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, California. She currently is undergoing training in Mindful Self-Compassion and forest therapy. She has degrees from Yale University and the Graduate Theological Union. In her free time, she loves dancing with her 9-year old daughter and forest bathing with her dog. Learn more about her at www.christinaleano.net.
Megan McKenna

Megan, a native of Brooklyn, NY, lives in Albuquerque, NM and works with peace and justice groups with a concentration on the Scriptures, oral traditions, cross cultural theologies, and storytelling, around the world. [The Americas, Southeast Asia (Philippines, Japan, China, India, Singapore), Pacific Islands, Oceania (Australia, New Zealand), South Africa.] She leads parish missions and retreats and is a sought-out speaker with Pax Christi groups worldwide. For the last four years, she has primarily worked with First Nations’ communities in Northwestern Canada on peace, restorative justice, reconciliation, and resurrection in light of the history of government schools, disappearances and deaths of children over the last four generations, and the consequences that are the reality today: poverty, injustice, violence, disappearances especially of women, suicide, health concerns, family life and racism. She is the author of 52+ books; the two latest are: Listen Here! (Paulist Press) and The Poor Save Us: Stories (Clear Faith Publishing). She is writing a three-volume lectionary of commentaries and reflections and is writing a book on forgiveness, reconciliation, restorative justice, making peace, repairing souls and systems, and resurrection, with both the First Nation (Indigenous) communities and non-native groups.

Shannen Dee Williams

Dr. Shannen Dee Williams is Associate Professor of History at the University of Dayton. A historian of the African American experience with research and teaching specializations in women’s, religious, and Black freedom movement history, Williams is the author of Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle, published by Duke University Press in May 2022. Dr. Williams’s research has been supported by a host of fellowships, grants and awards, including a Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City, a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Fellowship in Religion and Ethics from the Woodrow Wilson National Foundation, an Albert J. Beveridge Grant from the American Historical Association, and the John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award from the American Catholic Historical Association. Her work has been published in the Journal of African American History, American Catholic Studies, The Washington Post, America Magazine, and National Catholic Reporter. A Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, Dr. Williams also writes the award-winning column, “The Griot’s Cross,” published by the Catholic News Service.

Sunday Closing Mass

Bishop John Stowe, O.F.M. Conv.,
Bishop President of Pax Christi USA

Bishop John Stowe is a Conventual Franciscan Friar and has served as the third Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky since 2015. Prior to that appointment by Pope Francis, he was the Vicar Provincial and the Rector of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio. He had previously served in the Diocese of El Paso for 15 years as a pastor and for eight of those years as the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. A native of Lorain, Ohio (Diocese of Cleveland), Bishop John has bachelor degrees in Philosophy and in History from Saint Louis University and a Masters of Divinity and Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California. During the time of his studies in California, Bishop John was active in Pax Christi Berkeley. Throughout his ministry he has been actively engaged in the promotion of peace and justice, involved in community organizing and ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. In addition to serving Pax Christi USA, he is on the Administrative Committee of the USCCB and on the subcommittee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. He is the Episcopal Moderator for the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.
Saturday Morning Workshop Descriptions

Please see your nametag for your workshop. Every effort was made to assign you to your first or second choice workshop. Unless marked below, all workshops will be recorded and videos and handouts will be available after the conference for participants.

Each workshop has a holy person whose life and witness for peace will be shared briefly at the beginning. The corresponding banners, which have been used on the main stage, will be moved to the workshop rooms during the workshop sessions. May their lives inspire our prayer, study, and action.

Morning Workshops (11:15 AM-12:45 PM)

See screens in the Crystal Ballroom, volunteer helpers around the conference space, and monitors outside meeting rooms for the workshop room assignments.

Workshop A: Supporting a Pathway to Peace in Palestine through the Prism of Justice
Nora Carmi, Marya Farah, Raed Jarrar, and David Wildman
Moderated by Abigail Abysalh Metzger, Pax Christi International UN Team

Pope Francis said, “Every war stems from an injustice.” This could not be truer than in the context of the on-going colonial violence inflicted by Israeli forces in occupied Palestine. What is the role of the United States government? What can we, people in the U.S., do at the grassroots level to support Palestinian liberation through peace with justice?

Holy person: His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem

Workshop B: Bread Not Stones: Organizing to Redirect Military Spending
Beatrice Parwatikar, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and former member of the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team; Jean Stokan, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and Justice Team for the Sisters of Mercy; and Tom Cordaro, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and former member of the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team

Join committee members of Bread Not Stones: A Catholic Campaign to Redirect Military Spending to explore ways to educate and organize to reduce our nation’s military spending. As we’re preparing for the midterm elections, advocacy on the local, state, and national levels is urgently needed to ensure everyone’s basic needs are met – not just the corporate good of the military industrial complex. This workshop will highlight actions being taken and give tools to organize against excessive military spending in your local community.

Holy person: World War I conscientious objector Ben Salmon

Workshop C: Being an LGBTQ Inclusive Peace Movement: Past, Present, and Future
Sponsored by Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus (PCYAC)
Francis DeBernardo and Robert Shine, New Ways Ministry

This workshop will highlight some Pax Christi USA efforts made towards LGBTQ+ inclusion and justice in its history before focusing on how the organization and its members can further advance reconciliation, recognize the gifts of LGBTQ+ peacemakers, and realize the inclusive movement Pax Christi seeks to be.

Holy person: Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM
Workshop D: Race and Class in the United States: Understanding their Intersections
Colin Martinez Longmore, Outreach and Education Specialist, and Audrey Carroll, Press Assistant & Social Media Specialist, both at NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

What are the roots of the racial wealth and income gaps in the United States? How does racism affect our economic policy, and vice versa? Join us for an interactive exploration of how the interlocking injustices of white supremacy and capitalism have allowed a select few to thrive while others barely survive. This workshop will help participants dispel claims of U.S. meritocracy and popular “bootstrap” narratives by providing participants with an opportunity to examine the institutional and political realities of racism.

Holy person: Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, OSP

Workshop E: Getting to the Root: Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery
Janelle Delorme, francophone Red River Métis activist and drum carrier; Carrie Hansen, co-chair of Pax Christi South Dakota and Justice Contact for the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Melissa Chapman Skinner, Presentation College, advocate and training assistant at Episcopal Church, Indigenous Ministries; and Mary Beth DiMarco, Pax Christi Maine, Maine Episcopal Committee on Indian Relations.

Join Pax Christi USA members and advocates who have worked to publicly repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, a religious document that promoted the racist policy of “discovering” and conquering “new lands” that were in fact already occupied. Drawing from Indigenous and settler perspectives, this session will explore the lived experience of those affected by the doctrine’s harm. We will offer concrete examples for you to bring back to your chapter or local group on how you can work against the Doctrine of Discovery’s ongoing impact. This workshop will NOT be recorded.

Holy Person: He’haka Sápa (Black Elk)

Workshop F: Thomas Merton: A Model of Unbinding (OFFERED ONLINE and IN-PERSON)
Leslye Colvin, Policy Advocate, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Pope Francis describes Thomas Merton as “a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church.” Through her research of Merton, Leslye began to understand this description as the monk and writer became a model of the dynamic relationship between contemplation and activism that unbinds us to live the Gospel of Christ Jesus today – in our time and place. Ponder with Leslye the connection between Merton’s activism and contemplation and its lessons for peacemakers today.

Holy person: Fr. Augustus Tolton
Saturday Afternoon Workshop Descriptions

Please see your nametag for your workshop. Every effort was made to assign you to your first or second choice workshop. Unless marked below, all workshops will be recorded and videos and handouts will be available after the conference for participants.

Each workshop has a holy person whose life and witness for peace will be shared briefly at the beginning. The corresponding banners, which have been used on the main stage, will be moved to the workshop rooms during the workshop sessions. May their lives inspire our prayer, study, and action.

Afternoon Workshops (2-3:30 PM)

See screens in the Crystal Ballroom, volunteer helpers around the conference space, and monitors outside meeting rooms for the workshop room assignments.

**Workshop G: Groundswell: Building a sustainable racial justice ministry**
*(Sponsored by the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team)*

Cathy Woodson, former Pax Christi USA National Council chair and community organizer; Joan Kennedy, Executive Director of the Hampton (VA) Neighborhood Office; and Abigail Causey, Coordinator of Religious Education at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (VA). All are members of Virginia Catholics for Racial Justice. Moderated by Vicki Lott, Ph.D., Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team member and consultant with Joyce James Consulting

*With the news cameras turned elsewhere and the white anger over George Floyd dissipated, how will it be this different time? In June 2020, lay leaders from across the Diocese of Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy, were called to a 30-week transformative journey with the three JustFaith racism modules that would move their conversation to action. Striving to become a beloved community, this small group evolved into a diocesan-wide ministry that creates intentional relationships, educates itself on the history of racism in the Catholic Church, and chooses the third way of nonviolence to confront racism with love’s powerful force. Learn how Virginia Catholics for Racial Justice is building a groundswell of anti-racist Catholics and how you can stand with them to make effective and sustainable change.*

**Holy Person:** Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA

**Workshop H: Urgency of Now: Environmental Justice, Climate Justice, and the Fight for our Future**

William Barber III, Director of Climate and Environmental Justice at The Climate Reality Project and founder of The Rural Beacon Initiative; with response from Jose Aguto, Executive Director at the Catholic Climate Covenant. Moderated by Eliane Lakam, Women of Color Advancing Nonviolence

*In this workshop, the discussion will explore the history of the U.S. environmental justice movement, the present climate crisis through the lens of impact on frontline communities, and innovative solutions to help facilitate a just transition to a clean energy future. We will also discuss the reclamation of faith and morality as a powerful call to action in our urgency of now.*

**Holy Person:** Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDeN
Workshop I: Modern-Day Lynching: Catholics Call for Abolition of the Death Penalty
Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches; Sr. Eileen Reilly, Religious Engagement Associate for the Catholic Mobilizing Network; Art Laffin, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace and member of Journey of Hope... From Violence to Healing.

The death penalty in the U.S. directly descends from lynching, leaving it inherently racialized today. In 2015 when Pope Francis addressed Congress, he called for the abolition of the death penalty, and in 2018 the Catechism of the Catholic Church was revised to state that “the death penalty is inadmissible.” During this workshop, hear from those who have experienced this system firsthand and activists who are organizing for abolition.

Holy person: Pierre Toussaint

Workshop J: Practicing Nonviolence: An Interfaith Conversation for Peace and Justice
Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director, Rumi Forum (Sufi); Rabbi Gerry Serotta (Jewish); Harunnessa Fariad, Director of Outreach at Multi-faith Neighbors Network, Music Director at The ADAMS BEAT Choir; Roya Bauman, (Bahai), National Center for Youth Law; Dr. Richa Agarwala, Interfaith Outreach Coordinator for the Chinmaya Mission Washington Regional Center (Hindu)

What does weaving peace look like from faith perspectives with different threads? This interfaith workshop will focus on nonviolence as part of the core teachings of one’s faith, highlight the interfaith work that is currently being done with Pax Christi USA, and look forward to where we hope to be in the future. We will explore the necessity of interfaith cooperation in bringing us closer to the peace our world so seriously needs.

Holy person: Sr. Josephine Bakhita

Workshop K: Nuclear weapons and the budget as a moral document
Nick Mele, former State Department diplomat and coordinator of the Nuclear Disarmament Working Group of Pax Christi USA

This interactive workshop will involve participants in exploring basic facts about the nuclear weapons complex and how nuclear weapons spending shapes the discretionary federal budget. Participants will work with these issues through a brief presentation, puzzles and a small group exercise in setting budget priorities.

Holy person: Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen

Workshop L: International Perspectives: The Impact of U.S. Foreign Policy across the Globe from Militarization to Forced Migration (OFFERED ONLINE and IN-PERSON)
Carla García, International Relations Coordinator, Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH) and Rubén Figueroa, Director, Puentes de Esperanza. Moderated by Roxana Bendezú, Pax Christi USA Program Director

During this workshop, we will be joined by social justice leaders from different regions of the world who will aid us in connecting the dots about the root causes of international social struggles by offering their analysis based on their own life experiences.

Holy Person: Fr. Rutilio Grande, SJ
Workshop M: Worker Justice: Building a Nonviolent Economy

Members of UNITE HERE labor union, representing workers in the U.S. Senate cafeteria; Clayton Sinyai, Executive Director, Catholic Labor Network; Bob Cooke, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace and retired employee of the Machinists Union and the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund; Sister Barbara Finch, CSJ, who was fired (and eventually reinstated) for organizing the medical department of the Allegheny County Jail in 2014.

*From Starbucks to Amazon, workers across the country are organizing. This panel will explore how unions in Catholic Social Teaching are an antidote to coercive relations in the economy.*

Holy Person: Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko

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Centering Prayer Session

**Saturday, August 6, 3:45pm-4:15pm**

**Prayer Room, Salon D/E in Crystal Ballroom**

**Silence and Stillness: The Path to Nonviolent Action for Peace**

Facilitated by the Contemplative Outreach of Maryland and Washington: Kathleen Riether & Marjorie Centofanti.

This session will explore Centering Prayer, a method of prayer that is both a relationship with the Divine and a discipline for deepening that relationship. During the prayer time, we gently let go of our thoughts as they arise as a sign of our consent to the presence and action of the Divine within us, beyond our conscious awareness. Our consent in the silence is the catalyst for the Divine action that heals our inner wounds and the obstacles to love accumulated throughout our lifetime. Through Centering Prayer, the Spirit frees us to live wholeheartedly the way of nonviolence and Christ’s Peace.

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Saturday Afternoon Small Group Sharing Time

During this small group time, we invite you to reflect on your experience of this conference so far. We encourage you to take 5-10 minutes journaling individually and then sharing in your small group.

*I’m grateful for...*

Reflecting on the conference theme of Seeing Through the Prism of Justice, has new light shone in some way on your understanding of gospel nonviolence, peace, or justice?

*I’m still wondering about...*

*What challenged me the most...*?

*I feel called to.... (name an action or response)...*

As you close your small group time, each person is invited to share one take-away from our sharing. After everyone has shared, join hands and say together: “Glory to you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.”
2022 Teacher of Peace Award

With this award on the 50th anniversary since the founding of Pax Christi USA, Ms. Marie Dennis is being recognized for her long-standing witness and leadership within the Catholic peace and justice movement and her efforts to deepen the Catholic Church’s commitment to nonviolence as a core value of the gospel.

“Marie Dennis has been a teacher of peace for decades. She lives the nonviolent spirituality that she so powerfully teaches in word and deed and that she has discovered in Jesus, Francis of Assisi, Oscar Romero and others. She is the perfect recipient of this award and especially in this Jubilee year.”

~ Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA

“I am extremely pleased that Marie Dennis is being named as the recipient of the 2022 Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace during our 50th anniversary year. Marie’s organically faithful service to God through championing peacebuilding locally and throughout the world is a mainstay to the movement. This is a recognition well deserved!”

~ Charlene Howard, Pax Christi USA National Council Chair

To access the playlist of Teacher of Peace Videos, visit:
https://paxchristiusa.org/video-interview-series-pa
Congratulations, newest Ambassadors of Peace!

(First row) Isaac Chandler, Judith Kelly, Sr. Anne McCarthy OSB, Cathy Woodson, Mary Yelenick
(Second row) Jean Stokan, Fr. Chris Ponnet, Sr. Patricia Chappell SNDdeN, Ronaldo Cruz, Sr. Jean Fallon MM
(Third row) Sr. Pegge Boehm PBVM, Pearlette Springer, Scott Wright, Mary Hanna, Barbara Richardson
(Fourth row) Kathy O’Leary, Sr. Jane Morrissey SSJ, Olga Sarabia, Bob Cooke, Jo Clarke

To read about all the new Ambassadors of Peace, visit: https://paxchristiusa.org/2022/04/11/meet-the-20-new-ambassadors-of-peace-named-in-celebration-of-our-50th-anniversary/

Thank you to our generous sponsors who make our work for peace possible!

Make A Gift To Support Our Efforts For Peace

Online: bit.ly/paxchristiusa (select "Conference Gift")
By mail: 415 Michigan Ave NE #240, Washington, DC 20017

Want to remember Pax Christi USA in your will or make a special gift? Contact John Noble: jnoble@paxchristiusa.org
Sunday Afternoon - Prayer Witness

2 PM Gather in Crystal Ballroom

The Pentagon continues to be a place of exploitation, oppression, and mass destruction. As we close the National Conference, join Pax Christi USA for a prayer witness outside the Pentagon on Sunday, August 7th, in the afternoon. Participants are invited to gather in the Crystal Ballroom at 2pm and join in procession to the vigil site.

As peacemakers, we will join in prayerful action and give witness to the creative force of nonviolence. We will remember the victims of U.S. militarism, including those who were killed during the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and hear voices from Latin America and Palestine. As our program closes, we will symbolically offer our peace cranes, which will be carrying messages of a more peaceful future.

The program is expected to be a maximum of one hour. We will be walking to the Pentagon which is a half-mile from our hotel. A van will act as a shuttle to take a smaller number of participants from the hotel to the event. Please remain aware of weather conditions and come prepared with water, sunscreen, hats, and/or umbrellas.

A Special Thank You...

A conference like this is only pulled off with the contributions of many, many people. You'll see a list on the next page of some of those who were central to the planning and execution of this conference. But it is an extraordinarily special individual willing to step forward in faith to serving as the conference coordinator, the center that holds all of us together through all the ups and downs in bringing this weekend to fruition. With that said, all of us at Pax Christi USA wish to offer a special thank you and a deep bow of gratitude to Michelle Sherman without whom this conference would not have been possible.

Michelle joined our staff in September 2021 to serve as our 50th anniversary coordinator and this conference is the pinnacle of her work over the past year. This particular conference had an extremely high level of difficulty: from the concerns associated with the pandemic to a staff that had never undertaken a national conference before to this being Pax Christi USA's first in-person national conference in 6 years, Michelle has handled it all with grace and dignity. We hope all present will join us in offering her our profound gratitude for all that she has given to assure that we could have this time together to celebrate this important anniversary. Michelle, thank you, bless you and know of the heartfelt affection we all feel for you and for all you have done and given. Peace be with you!

Thank you Michelle!
Conference Staff

The Honorary 50th Anniversary Committee

Honorary Co-Chairs: Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB


National Council

Bishop John Stowe (KY), Bishop President
Charlene Howard (MD), National Council Chair
Madeline Labriola (RI), Vice Chair

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Conference Committee

Ivone Guillen, Convener


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50th Anniversary Working Group

Madeline Labriola, Convener


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Pax Christi Phone for Emergencies: 202-635-2741

For medical emergencies, call 911
Lost & Found items can be brought to the PCUSA table outside the Crystal Ballroom