

ANNUAL REPORT



PAX CHRISTI USA 2025

Exploring the **Transformative Power of Peace** through a review of Pax Christi USA's prayer, study, and action. The purpose of this report is to document Pax Christi USA's responses to an ever-changing world in 2025.

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Pax Christi USA Staff

Presented by :

Charlene Howard
Executive Director

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“When the world is confronting a global and serious ethical and humanitarian crisis, Pax Christi demands and exercises a voice of peace, justice, and human rights.”

Martha Inés Romero, Pax Christi International Secretary General

Vision

A more peaceful, just and sustainable world through the efforts of our members and in collaboration with other groups.



Mission

Guided by the spirituality of nonviolence, we advocate and provide leadership for disarmament, demilitarization and reconciliation with justice, inclusiveness, economic and interracial justice, human rights and care of creation.

We strive through prayer, study and action to be attentive to the intersectionality of the key issues stated above and, in our response, to be conscious of their impact on the world community.

We work to align our organizational structures, policies, and practices with our intent to be an anti-racist, multicultural Catholic movement for peace with justice.

A letter from the Executive Director

Dear pilgrims of peace,

Our vision grounds us in Gospel peace, our path is directed by Catholic social teaching, and our work is empowered by the spirituality of nonviolence. These important values have stood our movement effectively for over 50 years and continued to do so in 2025.



This year brought us into a period of transition not only in our movement but also in our country, bringing out the gifts of organizing and faithful witness. God has challenged us to provide effective resistance to the encroaching authoritarianism by advocating for the protection of the dignity of all people, the establishment of fair and equitable immigration policies, and the use of our tax dollars to cultivate thriving communities; and to engage in conflict resolution guided by prayer, study, and action.

The work Pax Christi members have done across the country has been a shining example of nonviolence in action. Your engagement with the national staff and council has deepened our collective resolve and relationships to strengthen the movement. And, most of all, you have made a difference. Pax Christi members not only demonstrate but engage in direct service to provide basic needs. Thanks to your advocacy, local legislators have stopped endowing their pensions through funds supported by military spending. Parishioners are taking the Vow of Nonviolence and are heeding Pope Leo XIV's consistent messages about the need to practice peace. These and more accomplishments are shared in this annual report.

It is my hope that as you read this 2025 annual report, you will see these successes and many more, and also realize the challenges we must undertake in 2026. I hope you are inspired and ignited with the resolve, more than ever, to continue to strive for justice and to support Pax Christi USA through your generous financial and creative contributions. It is through your selfless giving that we are able to provide programs, activities, and resources to assist you in building the beloved community where all can flourish the way God intends.

In peace and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlene Howard, M.A." in a cursive script.

Charlene Howard
Executive Director

A letter from the Bishop President

Dear Pax Christi USA members,

When 2025 began we knew that the year would unfold with more than its share of challenges. Not only were there ongoing wars in Sudan, Congo, Ukraine and Gaza amid others, but another inauguration of Donald Trump as president of the United States called for deep reflection and serious planning for effective nonviolent resistance.



Pax Christi USA's National Council met early in the year with hope and expectation under the leadership of our new executive director, Charlene Howard. Fully aware that the threats of Project 2025 were heading for implementation, we reflected about how to promote the spirituality of nonviolence and discerned the kind of risks that we would face at this moment rife with anti-immigrant sentiment.

Our national office staff has been busy issuing statements and networking with kindred organizations in the quest for peace. Opportunities for collaboration and networking within and beyond the church have been growing. We have initiated a new register for conscientious objectors from the military and we celebrated a vibrant National Conference in Michigan.

We witnessed the passing into eternal life of our beloved Pope Francis who greatly enhanced the profile of nonviolence in the Church and whose pleas for an end to war and violence continued until the day before his death. And we saw the historic election of the first pope from the United States who rather seamlessly picked up where Francis left off, pleading for peace in the world from his first greeting onward.

We need each other more than ever and your support is critical to helping us be a consistent voice for peace with justice in the Church and in the world. Thank you.

Peace and all good,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Stowe, OFM Conv." in a cursive script.

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.
Bishop President

2025 Pax Christi USA National Conference

Reclaiming the power of nonviolence in a broken world



In late July, almost 300 peacemakers from across the country gathered in Detroit for Pax Christi USA's national conference, "Reclaiming the power of nonviolence in a broken world."

Pre-conference events included tours of Detroit with the **Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus**, strategy meetings with state and regional Pax Christi leaders, and a screening of "The Palestine Exception," which was made possible in partnership with the **Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)** Michigan chapter.

After an opening ceremony on Friday evening that celebrated the nations that have endorsed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, renowned nonviolence expert **Maria Stephan** gave a powerful address on democracy and resistance; on Saturday morning longtime human rights attorney and activist **Jonathan Kuttab** spoke passionately on the crisis in Gaza and the struggle for Palestinian rights. Music and prayers were led by the dynamic and inspirational **Vallimar Jansen** along with her husband **Frank Jansen**, with special guest **Santiago Fernandez**.

Workshops were offered on nuclear abolition; resisting unethical AI; restoring right relationships with Indigenous communities; the humanitarian crisis in Sudan; building solidarity with immigrant communities; how to engage in faith-centered advocacy; the gun violence emergency in the US; and promoting nonviolence.

During the weekend, we celebrated **Meta Peace Team** as the 2025 Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace, and bestowed the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award on **Ralph McCloud**, former director of the USCCB's Catholic Campaign for Human Development. University of Notre Dame Ph.D student **Joryán Hernández** received the first Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU Peacemaker Award (celebrating young adults under 40), and **Joan Tirak**, **Fr. Tom Lumpkin**, **Pat Valaer**, **Nick Mele**, and **Abigail Abysalh Metzger** were named our newest Ambassadors of Peace.

On Sunday morning, we were honored that **Archbishop Ed Weisenburger** of the Archdiocese of Detroit joined us to celebrate our closing liturgy. After Mass, dozens of participants processed to the Spirit of Detroit statue for a solemn prayer service of lament and reconciliation, organized by **Pax Christi Michigan**.



A highlight of the conference was receiving the following special message from **Pope Leo XIV**, who encouraged our efforts to promote reconciliation and nonviolence:



To the Participants in the National Assembly
of Pax Christi USA

I extend cordial greetings and good wishes to those participating in the semi-annual National Assembly of Pax Christi USA, taking place in Detroit, Michigan this July.

In the midst of the many challenges facing our world at this time, including widespread armed conflict, division among peoples, and the challenges of forced migration, efforts to promote nonviolence are all the more necessary. We do well to remember that after the violence of the Crucifixion, the risen Christ's first words to the Apostles offered peace, one "that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering" (*First Blessing "Urbi et Orbi"*, 8 May 2025).

Jesus continues to send his followers into the world to become creators of peace in their daily lives. In parishes, neighborhoods, and especially on the peripheries, it is all the more important for a Church capable of reconciliation to be present and visible (cf. *Address to the Italian Episcopal Conference*, 17 June 2025).

I pray in a particular way that your gathering will inspire all in Pax Christi USA to work to make their local communities into "houses of peace" where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished" (ibid). In this way, you will enable many more people to embrace Saint Paul's invitation to live at peace with their brothers and sisters (cf. *Rom 12:18*).

With these sentiments, I entrust the Assembly to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abundant heavenly graces.

From the Vatican, 20 July 2025

Leo PP. XIV

Highlights in 2025

The Ben Salmon No Just War Registry for Conscientious Objectors

In 2025, Pax Christi USA launched the **Ben Salmon No Just War Registry for Conscientious Objectors**. This registry, named after a young Catholic man who was imprisoned for refusing military conscription during World War I, was first conceived by members of Pax Christi New York State out of a deep concern for the possibility of another military draft.

Conscientious objection was a key focus for Eileen Egan and Gordon Zahn, Pax Christi USA's founders; it was considered one of the four priorities of Pax Christi USA in the mid-1970s.



Taproot Earth gathering in Rome



In March, Executive Director Charlene Howard joined activists and Catholic leaders from 24 countries who gathered in Rome for **Taproot Earth's Global Climate Reparations Jubilee Convening**. Through prayer, ritual and consensus, participants called the Catholic Church to actively engage in reparation of the land as partners with the people on the frontlines who've been harmed by the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery. The result

was the compilation of a synthesis document that outlined main themes and areas of work along with questions yet to be resolved by all stakeholders, along with a strong indictment of the Church's role in colonialism and destruction of natural resources and specific calls for the Church to take significant steps towards restitution.

Faithful resistance to mass deportations webinar

On May 22, in response to the upsurge in detention and deportation, Pax Christi USA hosted an informative webinar organized by **Pax Christi New Jersey**, which featured several local leaders who spoke on the importance of strategic resistance to the ICE's unethical and threatening actions. Attendees learned what is happening with immigration enforcement, in particular ICE detention expansion; how to accompany families who are fearful of ICE and those dealing with the separation of immigration detention; and how to take action in their communities to protect and support neighbors who are being targeted.



Vigil at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center

Over the weekend of June 20-22, Pax Christi USA participated in a prayerful witness and pilgrimage, organized by members of **Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace**, at the South Louisiana Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center in Basile, Louisiana, where Mahmoud Khalil, the leader of the Gaza solidarity movement at Columbia University, had been imprisoned for 104 days. This was a moving experience, where we reflected on how the treatment of the immigrant community is often entwined with the treatment of those who have been demonstrating against the genocide in Palestine.

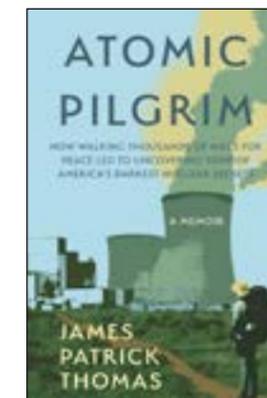


Prayer vigils outside ICE headquarters

In October, approximately 50 peacemakers, including members of the Pax Christi USA National Council, held a prayer service with the theme "Love Thy Neighbor" outside the Washington, DC headquarters of ICE. The prayer service, co-sponsored by **Pax Christi USA, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore, the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Franciscan Action Network, Congregation Action Network, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the Quixote Center** and other groups, has been replicated each month with Pax Christi USA taking a leadership role.



Atomic Pilgrim book group and brown bag lunch



In October and November, a four-part online book discussion group on Pax Christi Pacific Northwest member Jim Thomas' memoir, *Atomic Pilgrim* attracted a dozen registrants from across the country. Led by Ronnie Fellerath-Lowell, who serves with the office through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, book group participants considered their own "pilgrimage" against nuclear weapons as they read about Jim's participation in a 6,700 mile walk which took place in 1982-84 and spanned across the US, Europe, and then into Bethlehem to draw attention to the need for nuclear disarmament. Jim's book also recounted his later discovery of the truth about radiation exposure from the Hanford site in his home state of Washington.

On November 17, the national staff welcomed Jim at the Pax Christi USA headquarters in Washington, DC for a brown bag lunch and discussion about the book and his pilgrimage experience, which was livestreamed to our YouTube channel.

Ignatian Family Teach-In

From November 15-17, Pax Christi USA once again co-sponsored the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ) conference held near Washington, DC. Approximately 2,000 high school and college students attend the IFTJ every year. Several Pax Christi high school chapters, friends, and colleagues came by the Pax Christi USA display table, including Loyola Academy (Wilmette, IL), Elizabeth Seton High School (Bladensburg, MD), and College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA).



Staff and local Pax Christi leaders presented a workshop titled “Not by the sword: Catholic conscientious objection to war” to a full room. Combining a PowerPoint slideshow with prayer, a personal CO testimony, a skit illustrating the importance of early filing as a CO, plus Q&As the presentation covered Catholic Social Teaching on nonviolence; a bit of CO history; “why now”; and how and where to get support to register.

Peace pilgrimage to El Paso, TX



In December, an intergenerational group of Pax Christi USA members participated in an *encuentro* border delegation as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope. The 12 participants from across the US are already involved in local immigrant support and advocacy in Pax Christi and Pax Christi-adjacent networks. Almost all participants were part of the Pax Christi USA’s Peace Pairs program. Several of the participants are immigrants themselves. The majority of the group were young adults (under 40).

The goals of the trip were to facilitate encounters; debunk myths; gain factual information and personal anecdotes that allow participants to respond locally; participate in border spirituality and witness the Catholic presence and response in the borderlands; and affirm that we are on Indigenous land. Participants met with **Pax Christi El Paso**; the **Diocese of El Paso**; **Annunciation House**; **Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center**; **Hope Border Institute**; **Maryknoll**; **La Mujer Obrera**; the **Columban Fathers**; the **Religious of the Assumption**; **Jesuits**; historian **David Romo**, and more. Some members of the group crossed the border to Ciudad Juarez to meet with the migrants and community members. The group also joined an interfaith prayer vigil outside the federal courthouse in El Paso.



Pax Christi International held its 80th anniversary world gathering in Florence, Italy in November. Attendees included (l-r) Marie Dennis, Johnny Zokovitch, Charlene Howard, Scott Wright, Mary Yelenick, Bob Shine (4th from right) and Dan Moriarty (2nd from right). (Not shown, Pax Christi USA National Council member Jeff Sved.)



Pax Christi USA members at the June 14 No Kings demonstration in Washington, DC

Highlights from new local-regional groups

Pax Christi USA is grateful for the opportunity to welcome these new chapters and excited that they are on the forefront of their communities ensuring that the spirituality of nonviolence and Gospel peace endures, takes root and yields fruit to meet today's mounting violence of our collective moral, social and political consciences.

Pax Christi Hawaii: Located in its Pacific Island location, Pax Christi Hawaii is emerging to address the issues of nuclear disarmament and militarism. Though small in number, this chapter has a growing member base across the seven-island state. One of its major activities in 2025 was hosting a luncheon for Santa Fe Archbishop John Wester on October 11, the day before his speaking engagement at Chaminade University.

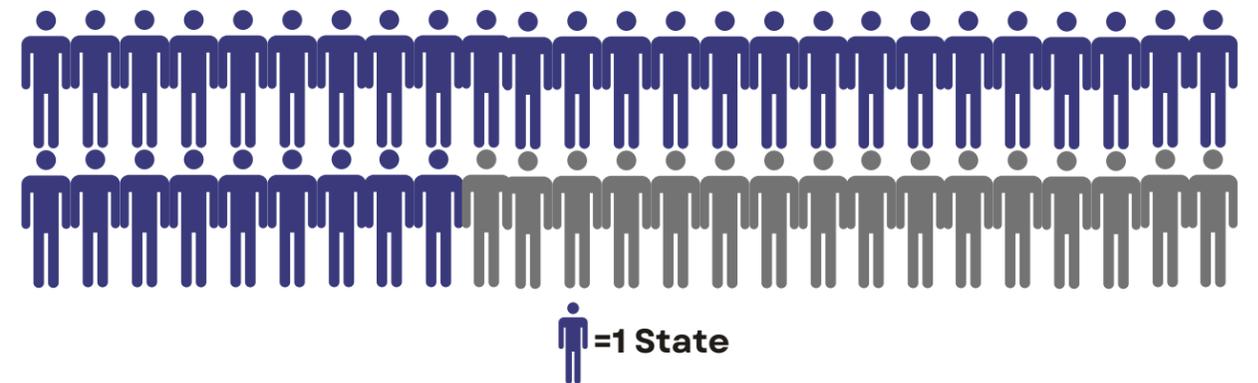
Pax Christi Seattle: In 2025, Pax Christi Seattle participated in the Immigration Pilgrimage of Hope, joining dioceses across the country in standing, through prayerful witness, in solidarity with those being disappeared, detained and deported. Members have also promoted the study of the various papal encyclicals on peace; participated as homilists at Masses in remembrance of the 80th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima; were a part of peace rallies, Hands Off, NO KINGS, immigration vigils, and protests.



Pax Christi Quad Cities - Iowa/Illinois: After a few quiet years, Pax Christi Quad Cities was revitalized in 2024; since that time, they have reenergized their presence in their community. They organized presentations in the Quad Cities community on topics of ranging from gun violence and refugee resettlement issues and practices, along with interfaith efforts to foster understanding and respect for Judaism and Islam, relative to Catholic Christianity. The focus of the chapter, no matter the issue, is to facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution; learn, practice and teach Gospel nonviolence and agape, practicing the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pax Christi St. Joseph Parish, Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Over the past two years, this parish based group grew to become an important influence in the promotion of Gospel nonviolence by offering programs, working for the routine recitation of the Pax Christi USA Vow of Nonviolence in their Sunday liturgies; advocating for the bishop of their diocese to sign on to a Bread Not Stones letter; and working on ways to support the work of local groups who accompany migrants. During 2025, this group built on their longstanding presence in their parish and community by conducting an all family book study of Pax Christi Pacific Northwest member Jim Thomas' memoir *Atomic Pilgrim* to raise awareness of the harms of nuclear weapons. This was followed by an event featuring the author and two other well known Pax Christi USA members in a panel discussion focused upon applying the nonviolent witness of Jesus to oppose today's assaults on human rights and dignity.

Chapter roadmap



Pax Christi USA state and regional groups are found in 34 out of 50 states!

For more information about Pax Christi chapter in your parish, university, or establishing a local group, please contact Pax Christi USA's Field Organizer, Stephen Niamke (sniamke@paxchristiusa.org).

Highlights from the Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus

In the spring of 2025, the Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus (PCYAC) Literary Circle for Liberation met five times to discuss *The Water Defenders: How ordinary people saved the country from corporate greed*, written by **Robin Broad** and **John Cavanagh**. Each session, led by one or two PCYAC volunteers, hosted anywhere from 4-8 participants. The last session was a conversation with the authors.



Following the death of **Pope Francis** on April 21, PCYAC leadership came together to host a virtual prayerful space for young adults and Pax Christi USA members to process their grief and reflect on his life and legacy. As a continuation of the commemoration, PCYAC wrote simple vignettes of the memories and impact of Francis' papacy on their lives. The reflections from six PCYAC members speak to Pope Francis' witness and invitation to young people to "love fiercely, dream anew, take risks, dare to hope, and keep going."



From June 27-29, PCYAC held a transformative weekend of reflection, prayer and community engagement at the **Benedictine Sisters'** monastery in Erie, PA. Participants had the opportunity to get away from the business of daily life, work, and school duties, for a meaningful experience centered on peacebuilding efforts, history and civic engagement.

Peace Pairs

PCYAC's Peace Pairs is a mutual co-learning program between generations, connecting seasoned peacemakers, like Pax Christi USA's Ambassadors of Peace, on a one-to-one basis with a peacemaker in their 20s or 30s.

In 2025, the fourth year of Peace Pairs, the 12 participants met at a monthly basis (some more often than others) in a process of accompaniment and co-learning as they explored ways to support each other in the peace and justice movement.

Some of the proposed projects include:

- A podcast that explores conscientious objection and the theme of "home" as a way of active nonviolence
- Sunday poem writing as a way of practicing intentionality and presence amidst the chaos of the world (playing off of Dorothy Day's Duty of Delight, but the Duty of Wonder, need to be a contemplative in our activist work)
- Plans for a one day retreat in the Washington, DC area with the theme of "care for our common home."
- In person Kingian nonviolence training.



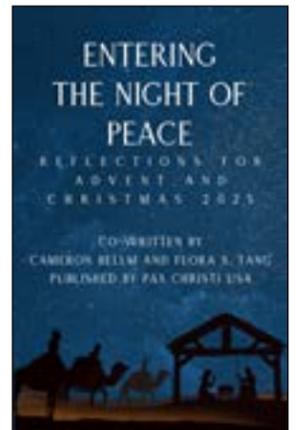
Communications in 2025

In 2025, **paxchristiusa.org** had 133,000 visitors, with over 203,000 views. By far, information about our national conference (see page 6) generated the most interest, followed by our resource pages for Lent and Advent; the apology petition written to the people of Japan on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; our June 2025 statement about the state of public unrest; and the post about the "ICE was here" sign at the manger at St. Susanna Church, a Pax Christi parish in Dedham, MA.

With social media, our Instagram following has increased dramatically in the past year; we're looking forward to more creative uses of that platform in the coming year. We're found on Facebook (with a steady following of 13,000), YouTube, BlueSky, TikTok, and Threads at the handle @paxchristiusa.

Our email list continues to grow – we send membership e-letters and news digests to approximately 9,400 addresses every month, plus weekly prayer-study-action (PSAs) during Lent and Advent, and action alerts and PSAs on nuclear disarmament, gun violence, and other critical issues throughout the year as well. Our 8-page newsletter is sent by post to thousands of members four times a year.

Our Lent and Advent reflection booklets continue to be highly popular, selling thousands of copies. In 2025, we were honored to have **Ralph McCloud**, former director of the USCCB's Catholic Campaign for Human Development, write our Lenten guide, "Return to me with all your heart," and young adults **Cameron Bellm** and **Flora x. Tang** co-author our Advent booklet, "Entering the night of peace."



One important way that Pax Christi USA demonstrates our commitment to justice is endorsing letters and statements circulated by collegial organizations. In 2025, we signed onto 45 public letters:

- We endorsed urgent demands for an end to the destruction and famine in Gaza, and signed in defense of UNRWA, the UN agency which provides humanitarian aid to Palestine.
- We endorsed statements expressing our profound regret for the first use of nuclear weapons 80 years ago and opposing any funding for and development of nuclear weapons.
- We urged Congress to support funding to end homelessness, to extend affordable health care, to protect food security, and to promote a just economy for all, with a fair tax system that keeps families together and protects all of God's creation.
- We supported resolutions that require human rights reports regarding the countries where migrants are being repatriated.
- We endorsed the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act which prohibits immigration enforcement actions in places that provide vital services



- We urged Congress to take much more robust action to prevent gun violence.
- We joined with other Catholic leaders on a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio urging the US's full engagement with COP30, and expressed our hope for a renewed US commitment to the Paris Agreement.
- We signed a statement opposing the federal government's takeover of the District of Columbia and the deployment of National Guard in DC, and urged support of legislation to restore DC's budget autonomy.
- We opposed the House Ways and Means Committee

tax bill granting the Secretary of Treasury the ability to accuse any nonprofit of being a "terrorist supporting organization" without due process.

- We expressed our opposition to the SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) Act.
- We supported the "Employment of Workers with Disabilities Under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act."
- We signed a letter to the Honduran attorney general demanding justice for environmental activist Juan López, who was murdered in September 2024.
- We endorsed a letter that encouraged President Trump to reaffirm the One China policy, and joined a global coalition urging UN member states to uphold, preserve, and strengthen international treaties.
- We urged Secretary Rubio and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to take immediate action to stop gun trafficking to Haiti.
- Following news of increased US military presence in the South Caribbean Ocean, we signed a public statement rejecting the push for war and violence in Latin America.
- And we urged Congress to prioritize diplomacy and de-escalation over war with Iran.



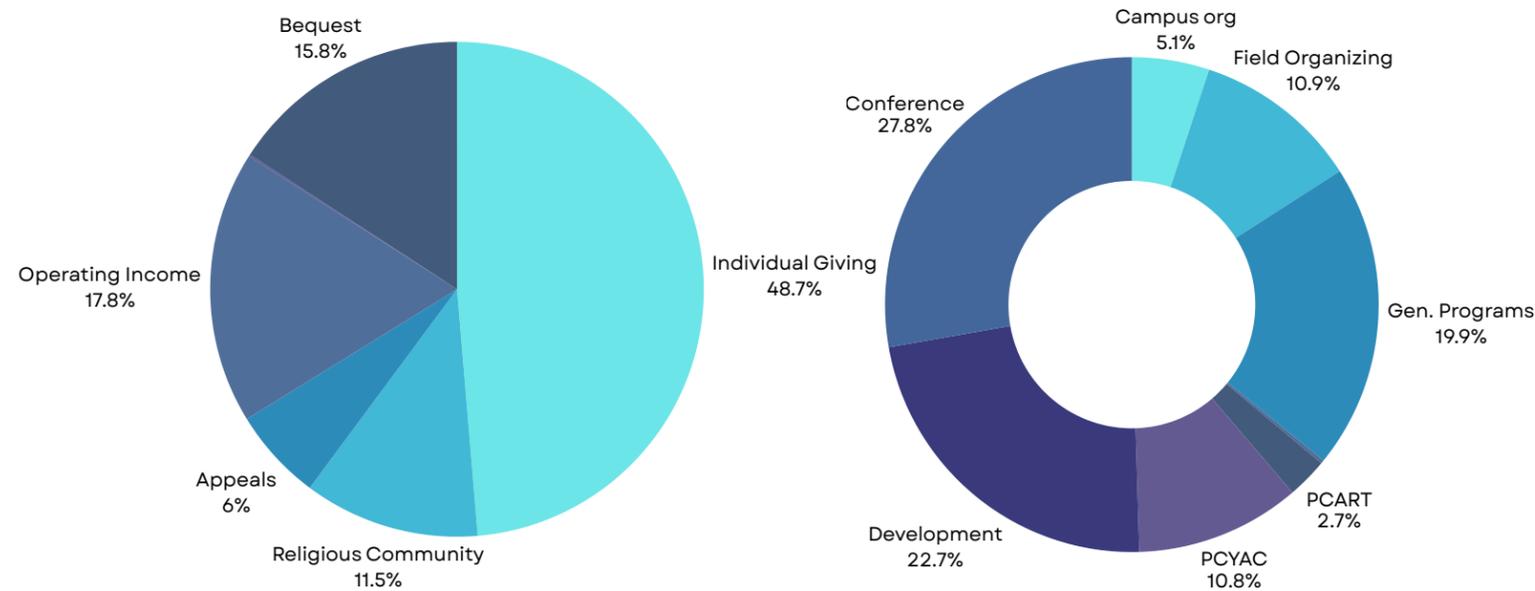
In addition to these sign on letters, we offered our own statements in response to the **political violence, civil unrest and chaos in the US**; the **ongoing horror of mass shootings**; the **US bombing of Iran**; and **in support of immigrants and in opposition to federal policies that vilify and target vulnerable communities**.

The complete list of sign on letters and statements can be found on our website.

Finance and development update

Individual giving in 2025 surpassed giving in 2024 by 15.94 percent. Religious community support also increased by 35.08 percent. The total percentage of change between 2024 and 2025 is largely due to the amount of bequest funds received.

Donor Type	2025	2024	Percentage of Change
Contributions under \$100	\$68,396.00	\$62,209.00	9.95%
Contributions between \$100 & \$1,999	\$130,521.00	\$117,394.00	11.18%
Major contributions greater than \$2000	\$197,577.00	\$159,952.00	23.52%
Sustainer	\$15,997.00	\$16,235.00	-1.47%
Religious community	\$97,537.00	\$72,209.00	35.08%
Institutional	\$1,003.00	\$6,707.00	-85.05
Spring Appeal	\$11,611.51	\$32,305.00	-60.78
Advent Appeal	\$36,671.00	\$27,686.00	32.45%
Other appeal	\$2,920.00	\$385.00	658.44%
Bequests	\$134,216.00	\$703,514.00	-80.92%
Totals:	\$696,449.51	\$1,198,596.00	-41.89%



Almost 50 percent of Pax Christi USA's income came from individual donors in 2025 (left). Including national programming (the 2025 National Conference), almost 80 percent of individual donations directly funded programs (right).



Looking ahead: Opportunities in development

Our Development Committee has identified several exciting possibilities now in the planning stages:

- **Scholarship for conscientious objectors:** \$5,000.00 for (preferably) Catholic college matriculating students who have signed the Ben Salmon Conscientious Objection Registry.
- **Essay contest:** Pax Christi USA is in the process of developing an essay contest that will engage students and young adults in reflecting on themes of peace, justice, and nonviolence. Support of this would be most appreciated.
- **Regional tours:** Pax Christi USA is planning regional visits by Executive Director Charlene Howard and staff, with particular attention to areas near campuses where Pax Christi USA has representation. These tours will strengthen our regional structure while creating opportunities to engage major donors and report on our work at the grassroots level. Stay tuned for more information, especially if we come to a region or chapter near you!
- **The Jean Donovan Fund for Young Peacemakers:** An inaugural giving campaign designed to support the formation and engagement of young Catholic peacemakers, honoring the martyrdom/witness of lay missionary Jean Donovan, who was 27 years old when she and three US religious sisters were martyred in El Salvador in 1980.
- **Grant writing partnership:** Ongoing collaboration with our new contracted grants research and writer continues to expand our capacity to pursue foundation support for our programs and initiatives.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS.

\$250
supports materials and programming for the Peace Pairs initiative, which connects seasoned peacemakers with younger activists for mutual co-learning and accompaniment across generations.

\$750
funds travel and materials for one Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team (PCART) member to facilitate an anti-racism workshop at a parish, school, or religious community. PCART provides critical training that helps Catholics understand systemic racism and take action for racial justice.

\$1,000
supports travel costs for three Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus (PCYAC) members to attend regional gatherings, monthly programming, or the annual summer retreat. PCYAC brings together peacemakers in their 20s and 30s for prayer, study, and action, building the next generation of the Catholic peace movement.

\$2,500
establishes our Spanish translation initiative, making Pax Christi USA materials accessible to Spanish-speaking communities throughout the country. This investment in linguistic accessibility justice ensures our peace and nonviolence resources reach all members of the Catholic community.

\$5,000
funds travel scholarships and honorariums for partner organizations during our border immersion experiences, including accompaniment with local guides and meals with partner organizations in Ciudad Juárez. Your support enables participants to witness firsthand the realities facing migrants and refugees.

\$10,000
is a leadership gift which would cover the complete annual printing and production costs for The Peace Current, our membership newsletter that reaches thousands of members across 350+ local communities with resources for prayer, study, and action. This quarterly publication keeps our movement connected and informed on critical peace and justice issues.

A message from the National Council

Dear friends,

2025 was a challenging and growth-producing year for Pax Christi USA. When I look back on all of the violence brought about by the current administration in the White House, I thank God for all of the people associated with our organization. With each new executive order that led to the marginalization, suffering, and even death of our neighbors, and the incessant attacks on our democratic form of government, Pax Christi members called out the injustice and met each new atrocity with courageous, active nonviolence. Your actions were celebrated at our national conference held in July in Detroit themed “Reclaiming the Power of Nonviolence in a Broken World.” Peacemakers like Martha Inés Romero, Secretary General for Pax Christi International; Dr. Maria Stephan of the Horizons Project; Jonathan Kuttub, executive director of Friends of Sabeel of North America (FOSNA); and Mary Hanna (Meta Peace Team) modeled for all of us what is required as we work together to build the beloved community. This theme resounded throughout the year in the messaging, protests, educational programs, and spiritual services promoted by Pax Christi USA staff, council, and members.

I believe that Pax Christi, the peace of Christ, **grows with the help of the Holy Spirit in the midst of relationships between diverse groups of people.** With that understanding, Pax Christi USA made it a primary goal in 2025 to connect groups both within and outside of the organization in an effort to grow a coalition of peace. Working groups focused on Gun Violence Prevention, Immigration, Palestine Solidarity, Anti-Racism, and Nuclear Disarmament began meeting actively with the National Council. Pax Christi USA staff and the National Council formed tighter bonds, with representatives meeting frequently for planning sessions. And Pax Christi USA continued to reach out to other peace organizations, sharing resources and working together towards a vision of a more sustainable and equitable world.

For me, one of the most important developments in our organization was the communication network formed between our local, state, and regional Pax Christi chapters. With the goal of establishing a chapter in every state, we scheduled consistent meetings between existing chapters to better share resources, learn from one another’s experiences, and establish relationships between local groups. Meetings between chapter leaders and the National Council also led to stronger relationships between national and local leaders.

I have no doubt that Pax Christi USA will continue to courageously promote the active peacemaking that is so critical in our world today, and I am privileged to have been a part of such a dedicated, faith-based community committed to Gospel nonviolence. You have been and will always remain my beloved community.

God bless you all,

Dr. Sherry Simon, Chair
Pax Christi USA National Council
2025

