



Peace Offerings

Sister Deborah Troillett Presents Future Plans for the Arkansas House of Prayer

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**Blessed are the Peacemakers,
for they shall be called
the children of God.**

Pax Christi Little Rock will host Sister Deborah Troillett, RSM, incoming Executive Director of the Arkansas House of Prayer, at 7:30 on Thursday, July 12 in Fitzgerald Hall (Diocese of Little Rock-2500 N. Tyler St.). Sister Deborah will provide information about the future plans for this ecumenically-based sanctuary. She began her tenure as director on July 1, 2018. Sister Deborah brings a depth of experience to this position as an interfaith leader, a person of contemplative prayer, and a true visionary. Sister Deborah also brings invaluable administrative experience from her 22-year placement as teacher, president and principal at Mount St. Mary's Academy in Little Rock as well as her most recent six year involvement with the Institute Leadership Team for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Maryland. Sister Deborah has traveled worldwide and has served on numerous committees and boards.

Sister Deborah has been in a transition period since August, 2017 when she left the Sisters of Mercy leadership team. She indicated at that time that her desire was twofold:

- “To respond wholeheartedly to a ministerial call that will enable me to serve the spiritual needs and support the spiritual growth of the People of God with passion, humility, compassion and integrity.”

- “To create a faith community based upon respect for the dignity of each person and support efforts to build bridges of understanding and respect among the many diverse peoples, ideas, cultures, faith traditions and beliefs that I encounter each day.”



Sister Deborah Troillett

Shortly after Sister Deborah formulated this intention for the next phase of her life, the invitation to interview for the position of Executive Director for the Arkansas House of Prayer arrived. She was offered the position quickly thereafter and has been meeting with the board

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and making preparations to move forward with her vision.

The Arkansas House of Prayer is located on the grounds of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, at 28215 Chenal Valley Drive. It is a place dedicated to silent prayer and meditation and is a joint ministry of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas. The House of Prayer marked its 10 year anniversary in December, 2017. Founded by the Reverend Susan Sims Smith, this space is designed to invite silence and is open to all people of any or no faith affiliation who desire an atmosphere that promotes contemplative practice.

Over the past 10 years, the House of Prayer has had over 15,000 visitors and has held over 20 retreats, seminars and workshops for people of all faiths. The House of Prayer is supported solely by donations. If you would like to contribute, you can find information to do so online at: **www.arkansashouseofprayer.org**.



This month, we collected a total of 27 corks. We are slowing down! Added to our last total of corks sent out to Soles4Souls in June, our total is now 5845. Please save the corks from those wine bottles and remember to bring them to our next Pax Christi meeting, drop them off at 415 N. McKinley St., #1040, LR or call 258-8653. Thank you!

PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

IS SPONSORING

WELCOME HOME:

AN INVITATION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO ITS LGBT BROTHERS AND SISTERS

THIS IS AN ONGOING DISCUSSION GROUP FOR CATHOLICS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT AND ALLIES WHO MAY HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH AND WISH TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-CONNECTION WITH THEIR FAITH THROUGH PRAYER, CONVERSATION AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTION. THE CHURCH FAMILY IS DIMINISHED BY YOUR ABSENCE. WE INVITE YOU INTO A DYNAMIC CONVERSATION. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN LEARNING ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AND GROWING OUR FAITH TOGETHER.

WHEN: THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018 7 PM

WHERE: DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK-FITZGERALD HALL

CONTACT: SHERRY WITH PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK AT paxchristilr@gmail.com

Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. At our July meeting, we will be supporting **The Arkansas House of Prayer**. Donated monies will be used to fund building and utility costs, support the construction of a labyrinth and meditation path, and provide teaching of prayer and contemplative practices to people of all faith traditions. You can mail donations to **415 N. McKinley, Little Rock, AR 72205, make a donation at our next meeting**, or you can certainly make a direct donation at their website: **www.arkansashouseofprayer.org**.

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PEACE PARTNERS

Peace Partners highlights various peace and social justice organizations, individuals and other entities who share our vision: active promotion of peace in our neighborhood, state, country and world. The goal is to increase awareness of the many organizations that work for peace through social justice and invite joint ventures between these groups to increase the effectiveness of our mission.



Pax Christi Little Rock is proud to partner with the [Arkansas Poor People's Campaign](#). This group is part of a national coalition originally begun by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other activists approximately 50 years ago. Across the nation, this group recently rallied "for a moral revival" for six weeks on the steps of state capitols across the nation. Here in Arkansas, Pax Christi LR was proud to stand with PPC and many other groups calling for justice for the poor.

The Poor People's Campaign had a weekly theme they were focused on over the six week revival:

- People with disabilities living in poverty
- Linking systemic racism and poverty
- Militarism and the proliferation of gun violence
- Ecological devastation and health care
- Education, living wages, jobs, income and housing
- Confronting the distorted moral narrative

Puerto Rico Missionaries Make Final Preparations

As the departure date for the Puerto Rico mission approaches, the six volunteers who will be going to Puerto Rico to help rebuild homes in hurricane damaged Orocovis municipality and assess the needs of other nearby villages in the central region of the island met for a final overview of travel and mission plans on Sunday, July 8.

The team, composed of Pax Christi LR members, will be leaving for Puerto Rico on July 27 and will return home on August 6. They will be joining with members of the Collegiate Church of New York to assist them in their rebuilding efforts in the small town of Milaflores (Orocovis municipality). Additionally, the team will be meeting with the leaders of other small towns that have been identified as having extreme needs following the hurricanes last Sep-

tember. Our vision is to adopt a town and maintain an ongoing presence there, returning in some capacity every 3 months to continue our projects together with the townspeople. On this initial trip, emphasis will be on talking with town leaders, listening to concerns, and working together to develop project plans. The mission will be informed by these conversations.



Gay Knight, George Simon, Sandee Haslauer, Isabel Adams, Tamara Tahat

SAVE THE DATE

On **Thursday, August 9**, Pax Christi LR members involved in the **Puerto Rico mission trip** taking place **July 27-August 6** will be present to provide an overview of their experiences. We will meet at **7:30 in Fitzgerald Hall** on the campus of **St. John's Catholic Center**. This meeting will be important as we will discuss the future direction of the mission. The hope is that Pax Christi can sustain an ongoing mission that returns to Puerto Rico every 3 months to continue the rebuilding process. We look forward to having your input as we all move forward.

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Father Warren Harvey, PCLR Chaplain, Celebrates 30 Years of Priesthood

Family and friends came together at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Conway for a celebratory Mass on July 7 to mark 30 years of priesthood for Conway native Warren Harvey, who became Arkansas' first African American Roman Catholic priest on May 28, 1988. Father Harvey was born on March 3, 1954, the youngest of 14 children. He attended The Good Shepherd Catholic Church and School, a church and school for African Americans, through the fifth grade. When the Good Shepherd School closed its doors following the integration of the two schools, he transferred to St. Joseph's. Father Harvey attended college at the University of Central Arkansas with the intention of becoming a surgical nurse, obtaining his license as a practical nurse. He remained very involved in his parish of St. Joseph, and during his third year of college began to seriously consider becoming a priest. He was influenced by several different priests including Fr. Michael Aureli and Fr. Zurelli. At that time, Fr. Harvey was a pre-med student and it was difficult to maintain both his studies and his call to the priesthood. As a result of his over-commitment, his grades began to fall. So, he withdrew from the university and made the decision not to apply to seminary at that time due to his grades. He didn't think seminary or the priesthood would be a possibility for him.

However, he had a dream towards the end of 1981 that changed everything. He dreamed that he was in line with many men who were approaching an old priest sitting in a high-back chair on a dais. The priest had a box next to his chair and as each of the



men walked up to him, they would kneel down and he would place a white collar around their neck. In the dream, Fr. Harvey let everyone else go ahead of him until he was the only one left. The priest reached down into the box and took out a white collar and asked, "Are you coming up here?" Fr. Harvey said he didn't know if he should. The priest said, "Either you come now, or you won't get another chance." Fr. Harvey knelt down and the priest put the collar around his neck. The dream ended. Shortly afterwards, he mailed in his application and entered St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA, accepted despite his lowered GPA. Throughout his 6.5 years of seminary, his GPA was never below 3.8 and most semesters he earned a 4.0. He graduated from Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School of Theology with a 3.8 and Cum Laude honors.

In the last 30 years, Fr. Harvey has served as a diocesan priest in several parishes including Our Lady of Good Counsel, St Augustine, St. Patrick, St. Mary, St Joseph in Pine Bluff, Good Shepherd in Fordyce and Holy Cross in Sheridan. Currently, Fr. Harvey serves as chaplain at St. Vincent's Medical Center and also uses his nursing experience to care for aging priests who live on the grounds of St. John's Catholic Center. He also assists other parishes as needed. For the past year, Fr. Harvey has served as chaplain for Pax Christi LR. He attends all meetings and provides spiritual direction and counsel to the PCLR board.

It should be noted that Fr. Harvey was asked to serve as PCLR chaplain following his angelic intervention in a small crisis. Last August, PCLR had finished packing 326 backpacks with school supplies for Rockefeller Elementary. Fr. Harvey had been involved with this project. The next morning, two PCLR board members showed up to transport these backpacks to the school, believing that they would have to make several trips in their small cars and

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that it would take most of the day to accomplish this task. To their surprise, Father Harvey and Deacon Tim had a trailer already filled with all of the backpacks and ready to transport in one quick trip. When asked what had led him to do this, Fr. Harvey said that he had been walking his usual circuit around the DOLR campus saying his rosary early that morning. For some reason unknown to him, he was thinking about all those backpacks that needed to be taken to the school. At about that time, he saw Father Tim pulling a trailer with a lawn mower enclosed. He stopped him and asked if he needed the trailer that morning and Deacon Tim told him that he had thought he would, but plans had been changed. So, Father Harvey and Deacon Tim loaded all the backpacks onto the trailer and helped us complete the delivery in about 30 minutes. The whole experience was made holy by the kindness of these men. That very day, we asked Fr. Harvey to become our chaplain and he has been sharing his kind heart with us ever since. His most recent gift has been arranging for PCLR to work with a neighborhood volunteer group in Pine Bluff to deliver school supplies to Pine Bluff elementary schools. Pax Christi is blessed with his presence among us.



Dcn Tim and Fr Harvey

**HAPPY 30TH JUBILEE,
FATHER HARVEY!!!**



Trailer with Backpacks

Reflection Corner

What is the relation of contemplation to action? Simply this. He (or she) who attempts to act and do things for others or for the world without deepening his own self-understanding, freedom, integrity and capacity to love will not have anything to give others. He will communicate to them nothing but the contagion of his own obsessions, his aggressiveness, his ego-centered ambitions, his delusions about ends and means, his doctrinaire prejudices and ideas. There is nothing more tragic in the modern world than world than the misuse of power and action. . . . – Thomas Merton

We live in a world that is largely disconnected from its spiritual source, where many individuals live from the center of their own ego and do those things that feel good without checking in with a higher power to better determine their course in life. Our culture supports this individualistic path, urging people to compete for money, power, and prestige. The winner takes home the spoils. And in this culture, there is also a tendency to move away from those who seem different or who we do not understand. Because we fear what we don't understand, it is easier to project the image of "loser" onto them. After all, if they don't play by the same rules, how can we compete with them and how can we win? We find it easier to disqualify them from the outset.

I suggest that the Creator of our universe follows a different set of principles. If we really listen in prayer and contemplation, our hearts are always turned towards the poor and marginalized in our society. For in their faces we find the face of our Savior and indeed, if we look closely enough, we find our own soul returning our gaze. For always, there is some part within us that is marginalized, lacking, poor in spirit. It is vanity to believe otherwise. If we would find and accept ourselves, we will do so by finding and accepting others. Indeed, our hearts are measured by our inner and outer efforts towards inclusion of all.

MANY THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Pax Christi Little Rock has a great deal to be grateful for over the past few months. We have been able to substantially grow two of our missions due to the generosity of many people. First of all, **The Fraternal Order of Eagles** donated \$5000 to support our Puerto Rico mission in addition to \$5000 to provide school supplies for our backpack mission. Because of their kindness, Pax Christi has been able to add St. Theresa's and St. Edward's to our "backpacks filled with school supplies" program. We will also be donating \$500 worth of school supplies through a neighborhood program to the Pine Bluff School District.

The \$5000 donated to our Puerto Rico mission will enable PCLR to buy "house kits" to help shore up homes damaged by Hurricane Maria. Pax Christi missionaries will be travelling to Puerto Rico July 27-August 6 to do construction work in Orocovis as well as talk with other villages we may partner with in the future.

Christ the King Church has generously given a portion of their tithes to Pax Christi Little Rock. In August, we will receive \$1000 that will be put towards backpacks as well as working with the schools during Arkansas Peace Week in September.

Pax Christi also received \$1300 from generous supporters when a Facebook campaign was initiated (accidently-ha!) in March/April.

To each of you who has supported Pax Christi Little Rock both financially and perhaps more importantly with your time and talent, we thank you and we invite you to continue working with us in our quest to grow peace in small spaces through the achievement of social justice in our world.

Goodness is about character-integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people. Dennis Prager

Studio Theater Hosts Cabaret for Lucie's Place

Many Pax Christi members came out to the Studio Theater on June 25 to support a fundraiser for Lucie's Place. Penelope Poppers was our speaker in June and Lucie's Place is a PC Peace Partner. Funds are used to support homeless LGBT adults, providing housing, job training and counseling.



Miracle of the Month

Isabel Adams, one of the Pax Christi missionaries to Puerto Rico, was attending a campaign rally for Clarke Tucker, a democratic candidate for the US House of Representatives. While she was there, she happened to meet a young man named Pablo Aponte. Isabel struck up a conversation with him (of course she did) and found that he and his family are from Orocovis, Puerto Rico, the same region where Pax Christi will be working with the Collegiate Churches of New York. Pablo is an attorney whose law practice closed down after Hurricane Maria. He moved to Arkansas at the urging of some friends and is currently working as part of the Tucker campaign. Several of us had the opportunity to meet with Pablo. He provided us with a great deal of information on the state of the central part of the island where we will be working. He will also connect us with several of his family members who remain in Orocovis. He said they would be happy to meet with us. Pa'lante (Let's go forward)!

CALENDAR OF PEACE JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

July 10 - AR Peaceweek meeting on making plans for Peace Week-5:30 Hillary Clinton Library

July 12 - PCLR Board Meeting (6 pm) and Speaker Sr. Deborah Troillett (7:30 pm)

July 19 - Welcome Home: An Invitation from the Catholic Church to It's LGBT Brothers and Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall

August 9- PCLR Board meeting (6 pm) and Puerto Rico mission update (7:30)

August 16- Welcome Home: An Invitation from the Catholic Church to It's LGBT Brothers and Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall