



## PCLR Board Members

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- Jerome Ngundue
- Sarah Ngundue
- Jan Pipkin
- Joanne Rausch
- George Simon

**Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9**

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## Lee Bass Shares Vision of Habitat For Humanity with Pax Christi

Lee Bass, board member and recent interim CEO for Habitat for Humanity, spoke to about 25 attendees at the Pax Christi Speaker Series on Thursday, May 9. Lee began by sharing Habitat's vision:

A world where everyone has a decent place to live. He described Habitat as carrying out "neighborhood revitalization," rebuilding and renovating about 10 homes each year in the Central Arkansas area. However, he

added that they recently set a new goal, working towards completing 36 homes over the next 1.5 years. Lee stated that folks who work with Habitat for Humanity live out their faith by "opening doors to home ownership" to people who have not had an opportunity to purchase their own home.

Habitat enables underprivileged individuals to buy affordable homes and all of their funds go towards building these homes without profit to the organization. He said that Habitat has begun working with Jer-



icho Way, a local day center for the homeless, Settled Souls, a group that provides furnishings and shelter for the homeless in Little Rock, and Our House to best determine appropriate candidates for the newly built houses. Lee stated that each new

homeowner has to put in 300 hours of "sweat equity," working to build both their own home as well as homes for future residents.

In addition to construction of these homes, Lee stated that Habitat provides education on finance and mortgage issues to ensure that each new resident understands how to budget for their new house payment.

## Peace Offerings

## PAX CHRISTI SPEAKER SERIES (cont)

## Lee Bass: Vision of Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas

Habitat is also funding a construction program at Joe T. Robinson High School that gives credits for students that complete the program and guarantees them a



job in construction upon graduation. These students work on Habitat houses as part of their program curriculum.

Lee also shared information about ReStore, the donation center that funds Habitat's mission. They accept items such as furniture, appliances, home décor, extra building material, clothing or books. The sale of these donated items helps build homes for families in need and serves to keep waste out of landfills. To date, ReStore has been responsible for keeping 9.9 million pounds of waste out of Central Arkansas landfills. ReStore accepts volunteers age 14 and up. If interested, you can email **volunteer@habitatcentralar.org**.

In addition to private donations of land/homes and organizational fundraising, much of the financial support comes from grants. Lee also said that the city of North Little Rock recently donated North Heights Elementary School. It has since been demolished and Habitat plans to build a neighborhood of nine houses on that land. Since many of the Habitat residents are single moms, the concept of having neighborhood support for one another is helpful. For those interested in volunteering, go to the website at **habitatcentralar.org**.

**They shall live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyards that they plant. Isaiah 65:21**

## PEACEBUILDERS: STRUCTURING PEACE IN OUR WORLD

Pax Christi Little Rock and Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas are joining forces to bring together several different



Arkansas peace organizations and build a "house for peace." Peace groups will work together to build a home for a person or family in need. Although this concept is in the very beginning of stages of development, several groups have already indicated that they are interested in making this vision a reality.

Once details regarding dates of construction, location of building site, and volunteer needs are determined, PCLR will be contacting its Peace Partners to determine how many volunteers wish to take part in this project. In addition to building a house, time spent working toward common cause will certainly contribute to stronger bonds that will enhance our future endeavors.

## Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. In June, we will be collecting donations for the House of

Formation to support our Diocese of Little Rock seminarians. Currently, the diocese supports 21 seminarians who not only come from Arkansas, but also from Mexico and Vietnam. Msgr. Scott Friend is director of vocations in the DOLR. If you would like more information, you can visit the website at **dolr.org**. Please give generously.

## Peace Offerings

## PEACE PARTNERS

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

**MOMS**  
**DEMAND**  
**ACTION**  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** is a national organization with 11 chapters currently established in Arkansas. This non-profit group works to raise awareness about gun violence, educate the public about common-sense gun laws and responsible gun ownership, pressure lawmakers to improve gun laws and connect and amplify the voices of survivors of gun violence. Every day, 100 Americans are killed with guns. Moms Demand Action continues to make an impact on this important issue. To donate to MDA, go to [secure.actblue.com](https://secure.actblue.com).

Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Cor 13:11

## PCLR Supports Moms Demand Action



## Moms Demand Action "Wear Orange" Event

Several members of PCLR showed up and participated in the Moms Demand Action #WearOrange event on Saturday, June 8 from 9-11 am at the Stephen's Community Center in Little Rock. There were games for the many children present and several tables displaying information on various peace groups and gun safety. The new Little Rock police chief, Keith Humphrey, addressed the crowd, emphasizing the importance of adopting measures to make guns more safe and less accessible to underage individuals or those with mental health conditions. In addition, two survivors of the Representative Bill Gwatney shooting in Little Rock 11 years ago gave their testimony regarding the trauma caused by witnessing gun violence. They emphasized the importance of getting therapy for the trauma immediately and developing a long-term support network.



LR Police Chief Keith Humphrey

## SOLES FOR SOULS

**Over the past month, 406 corks have been donated. Added to the total number (11,098) sent out to Soles4Souls previously, our total is now 11,504. 43 pounds of cork were mailed out this month! Please save corks from those wine bottles and bring them to our next PCLR meeting, drop them off at 415 N. McKinley St., #1040, LR or call 258-8653 and we'll pick them up. Thanks!**



## Peace Offerings

### PAX CHRISTI SUPPORTS OUR SEMINARIANS



Pax Christi Little Rock will host a table at the **Taste of Faith** fundraiser for the DOLR Seminarian Education Fund. In addition to raising money for their education, the Taste of Faith dinner provides Catholics around the state with an opportunity to meet these young men preparing for priesthood.

### FUN FACTS

- There are 22 seminarians for the 2018-2019 year.
- There will be two seminarians ordained in 2019.
- It costs \$36,000 a year to educate one seminarian.
- Taste of Faith began in 2010 in Little Rock and has raised over \$2,000,000.
- There are Taste of Faith fundraisers in NW Arkansas, Hot Springs, Jonesboro and Mountain Home.
- Since 2010, The Diocese of Little Rock has ordained 34 priests.

Priestly ministry involves being shepherds 'with the smell of the sheep,' who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them. Pope Francis

## CALENDAR OF PEACE

### JUNE/JULY EVENTS

- June 10** ACPJ Monthly Meeting-6:30-8:30 pm  
Pax Christi LR provides information on its history, mission and current projects
- June 11** Arkansas WAND Potluck  
Anti-War Workshop Follow-Up  
6:30 pm, Home of Jean Gordon  
510 Hidden Valley Drive, LR  
Learn more about effective lobbying for ending war. Brainstorming ways to change American Foreign Policy.
- June 13** PCLR Board Meeting- 6 pm Fitzgerald Hall  
Speakers Series—Deacon Joseph Friend  
History of the Black Catholic Church in AR  
7 pm - Fitzgerald Hall at St. John's Center
- June 15** Rock the Block- 8am-1 pm  
9607 Woodford Drive LR  
Habitat for Humanity paints, repairs and loves on several homes at once. They provide lunch, snacks and water.  
email [volunteer@habitatcentralar.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatcentralar.org)
- June 26** Pax Christi LR on KABF 88.3 FM 5-6 pm  
PCLR will share its history, mission as well as current projects and future plans.
- July 11** PCLR Board Meeting-6 pm Fitzgerald Hall  
Speakers Series-Bishop Anthony Taylor  
Immigration: A Right to Life Issue  
7 pm—Fitzgerald Hall at St. John's Center

## Peace Offerings

## DEACON FRIEND SHARES RESEARCH ON HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ARKANSAS

Joseph Friend is a recently ordained deacon in the Diocese of Little Rock who currently attends St. Meinrad's Seminary in Indiana. He has one more year of studies before he is ordained a priest in 2020. During this past year, as part of his work at St. Meinrad's, Deacon Friend initiated research on the topic of the integration of the black and white Catholic Church in Arkansas. He stated that he



Deacon Joseph Friend

has been moved to tears at times by the different stories he has read about the difficulties experienced within the Church as it struggled with change during the Civil Rights era.

As part of the Pax Christi Little Rock Speaker Series, Deacon Friend will present his findings on Thursday, June 13 at 7 pm at the Diocese in Fitzgerald Hall.

Joseph Friend has said that he first felt the call to the priesthood when he was 12 years old and attending mass in the Catholic High chapel in Little Rock. He said that when the host was elevated, he heard the Lord say, "Come follow me" as he was looking into the eyes of Jesus in a mosaic on the back wall. His vocation was strengthened when his mother was diagnosed with cancer a few years later. Not long afterward, both Joseph and his older brother, Patrick entered the seminary in 2012. His mother, Betty Friend, died of cancer in 2013. But as she was dying, she told Bishop Taylor, "I trust my sons with you; I am placing them in your hands. Take care of my boys." Joseph attributes much of his faith to the strength, faith and conviction he saw in his mother as she struggled with cancer.

Joseph attended school at Christ the King and Catholic High in Little Rock before going into seminary. He will serve this summer at Sacred Heart Church in Morrilton and then return to St. Meinrad in the fall for his final year of study.

## SAVE THE DATE

### PAX CHRISTI LR SPEAKER SERIES

Presents

## Bishop Anthony Taylor

Diocese of Little Rock

## IMMIGRATION: A RIGHT TO LIFE ISSUE

THURSDAY, JULY 11 at 7 PM

FITZGERALD HALL, ST. JOHN'S CENTER  
2500 N. TYLER STREET, LITTLE ROCK 72203

## Peace Offerings

## ACPJ HOSTS FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION ANTI-WAR ADVOCACY WORKSHOP



**FCNL Workshop Participants**

The Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice hosted Shoshana Abrams, an Advocacy Teams Manager with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, to work with interested participants on learning effective anti-war advocacy skills. The workshop was held on Saturday, June 8 from 3-6 pm at the Quaker Meeting House (3415 Markham Street, Little Rock) and was attended by 25 people, most of whom belonged to various peace organizations around the state. In addition to ACPJ, groups represented included Moms Demand Action, Pax Christi LR, WAND, the Episcopal Peace Movement, World Beyond War, and various local churches.

The point of the workshop was to help participants realize that their voice could make an important impact on federal policy. Shoshana took the group through several training exercises including learning how to write an effective letter to a representative and how to give a persuasive "elevator talk" on repealing legislation that supports war efforts.

Ms. Abrams emphasized the importance of growing relationships with your senators, particularly when it came to the Advocacy Teams campaign to galvanize congressional action to repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force.



**Shoshana Abrams**

Shoshana set out tools to guide outreach to sena-

tors including RAFT principles: Respond, Ask for Action, use the Facts, Tie into your community and your story.

Once the training was ended, the group discussed the possibility of moving forward with establishing an advocacy team in Arkansas. Four people volunteered to be part of this team and several others are considering joining. Since



**Anti-war Advocacy**

there is enough interest, FCNL will provide a one-time series of four trainings to build a structure and prepare the group to lobby. After the training, the team will meet once a month around a national call to hear from experts and learn from other advocates. The teams will plan and execute an action each month. One or more delegates from each team will join an additional call twice a month for legislative updates, training and collaboration.

**Individuals can resist injustice, but only in community can we do justice. Jim Corbett, "Sanctuary as a Quaker"**



## Peace Offerings

## UNLOCKING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF DIVERSITY

Over the past couple of years, there have been significant changes in our national as well as global political climate. The world has seen an increased call for nationalism, where individual nations place their own needs above the needs of other countries and other people. This has naturally led to a call for bigger border walls, immigration crackdowns and even increased paranoia when it comes to dealing with anyone who is different or doesn't belong to their particular group, whatever that group may be. So, with all of this focus on individualism and isolationism, it seems the perfect time to explore our views on diversity and what is at stake if our world continues to adopt this "me first" philosophy.

It is interesting to look at what happens when individuals are exposed to different cultural norms, thoughts, attitudes and belief systems. After all, it sounds well and good to want to diversify our world and therefore our experience, but what has been the actual effect upon individuals when they dare to experience people and cultures who are different from themselves? It seems intuitive that diversity is a good thing, but what does the research show? Interestingly enough, the latest corporate business research reveals that companies in the top quartile for gender or racial and ethnic diversity are more likely to have financial returns above

their national industry medians. Companies in the bottom quartile in these dimensions of diversity are statistically less likely to achieve above-average returns. Working with diverse groups seems to improve performance levels, with many studies revealing a significant increase in creative thought process in more diversified group settings.

Let's take this a step further and look at this from the psychological point of view of the individual. Carl Jung, noted Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, suggested that each person has unconscious archetypal energies that affect their thoughts, behaviors, and attitudes throughout life. The problem with these directing energies being unconscious is that people aren't always aware of why they feel, act or think like they do. And the



only way to become more aware of these different energies within is to encounter that same energy from someone in their outer life. People in our lives act as mirrors to the different aspects of who we are on the inside. Sometimes we can only recognize a part of ourselves when it is projected onto another person.

So, what happens to the inner development of an individual when the outer world is made up

**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord. I Corinthians 12:4-5**

## Peace Offerings

of people who are mostly just like them? Of course, in some ways this is very comfortable because each person generally agrees on the rules and sees the world through similar glasses. There is agreement on the main principles and the world seems very well defined and stable. However, by definition this means that internally, there is very little self-exploration and a significant amount of life energy is tied up in repressing those thoughts and feelings deemed different or unacceptable. When we have to behave in a certain narrowly defined manner to be accepted by the tribe (all of those other folks like us), we lose a universe of potential within ourselves.

By contrast, when there is exposure to different personalities, genders, races, and ethnicities, we are often bombarded by new and creative thoughts. Of course, there is almost always an initial resistance to being exposed to different ways of thinking and there is the associated tendency to make judgments that goes along with that. But, if we can get past making these judgments and resting in our own superiority (remember who encouraged us to do this), we can begin to appreciate the different gifts that others bring to the table. It is an interesting thing that, once we recognize the gifts proffered by others, we can begin to better understand those same traits that reside within us. And once we can recognize and incorporate these previously unconscious aspects of self, we are less likely to judge others when we see these same attributes in them. It is a lovely waterwheel of inner and outer acceptance that leads to growth in all areas.

So, back to the initial question regarding the value of diversity in our world and in our lives. If there is any desire for inner growth and transformation, it would seem that being exposed to



diverse cultures, beliefs, and attitudes is essential to this creative process. Uncomfortable at times, certainly, but such is the way of growth, both individually and as a nation.

Upon considering this concept of diversity, I hope that you will go out and take risks. Make eye contact with a homeless person on the streets and talk to her or him. Go out to eat at a restaurant in a part of town you've never been before. Sign up for a mission trip. Strike up a conversation with a stranger. Hang out at a homeless shelter. Volunteer with people you've never met before. Because when we connect with a person who is different from us, we find that we don't have all the answers. We realize that we are all, in fact, "poor in spirit." But in understanding this truth, we may also realize that our universe, both outer and inner, is so vast and awesome that we will have the pleasure throughout our earthly life of growing and learning something new every day. And in this process, we receive exactly as much as we give.

Sherry Simon

## SAVE THE DATE

**The date for packing 1200 backpacks with school supplies has been set for Monday night, August 5 at 6 pm on the third floor of the CTK Ministries Building. Join us! More info will be provided closer to the date.**