



PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

November 5, 2017
Vol. 1, Issue 11

Pax Christi
LITTLE ROCK

Peace Offerings

Father James Martin to Skype with PCLR

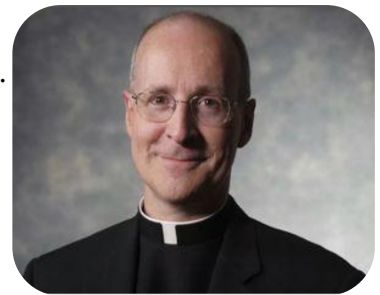
On *Building a Bridge* Themes

PCLR Board Members

- Sherry Simon (President)
- Betty Jo King (V. President)
- Marian Paquette (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Sandee Haslauer
- Mary Hunt
- Becky Mullican
- Jerome Ngundue
- Sarah Ngundue
- George Simon

Father James Martin is a Jesuit priest, writer, and editor-at-large of the Jesuit magazine *America*. In April of 2017, Pope Francis appointed Father Martin as consultant to the Vatican's Secretariat for Communications. He has written 12 books, with his most recent book, *Building a*

Bridge, being easily his most controversial. This book calls for a "conversation" between the Catholic Church and the LGBTQ community with focus on developing a relationship of respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Fr. Martin will be presenting via skype on Thurs., Nov. 9 at 7 pm



Father James Martin in Fitzgerald Hall (Diocese of LR-2500 N. Tyler Street). All are welcome to attend and join in with this much needed conversation.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Pax Christi Little Rock would like to invite those of you who have been so supportive of our ministry throughout the year to attend our Christmas party on **Thurs., December 14 at 6 pm** in Fitzgerald



Hall at St. John's Center. We have so much for which to be thankful. But most of all, we want to thank each of you who have contributed to our mission of peace as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Please join us!

Peace Offerings

Active Peacemaking Initiative

As part of our ongoing endeavor to put study and prayer into action, here is our highlighted November project that demonstrates our goal of active peacemaking.

Mental Illness and the Death Penalty

Pax Christi-LR remains involved in the ongoing efforts to abolish the death penalty in Arkansas. Governor Hutchinson recently scheduled inmate Jack Greene to be executed via lethal injection on November 9. However, Mr. Greene has a well documented history of ongoing mental illness. He has been diagnosed in the past with a delusional disorder and continues to present with symptoms of psychosis. The AR Dept. of Corrections has not referred him for evaluation despite his condition. Drs. George and Sherry Simon were panelists on the program "Community Conversation on Mental Illness and the Death Penalty" on Oct. 23, 2017 at the Bowen School of Law. They signed a petition with 26 other MH professionals decrying the intention to execute a mentally ill man.

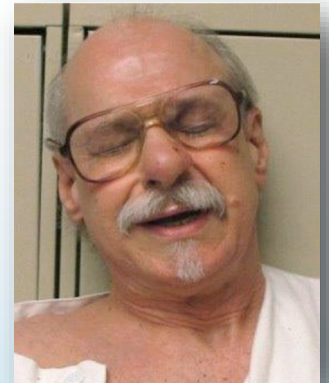
October Mission Results

At our October meeting, PCLR requested that attendees donate money to aid in the disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico following the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Donations totaling **\$522** were mailed via Catholic Charities to Fr. Camacho at Caritas de Puerto Rico.

Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.

Jack Green Scheduled for Execution on Nov. 9

Convicted on Oct. 15, 1993 for the death of Sidney Burnett of Knoxville, AR, Jack Greene has spent the last 24 years on death row, mostly in solitary confinement. The murder was brutal. Greene gagged, bound and beat Mr. Burnett, a retired minister, before stabbing him twice and slitting his throat. Prior to this, Mr. Greene was accused of killing his brother in North Carolina, receiving a life sentence for that crime. Jack Greene was convicted in AR of killing Mr. Burnett and was sentenced to death. Last month, Governor Hutchinson scheduled his execution for November 9.



Jack Greene

There is just one problem. The US Supreme Court has ruled that the 8th Amendment prohibits the execution of someone who is not competent to comprehend his punishment. There is sufficient (cont. p. 4)

Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our November mission will support the **Thanksgiving Basket Drive at Helping Hand.** Last year, Helping Hand fed over 250 fam-

ilies full Thanksgiving dinners. Pax Christi LR hopes to help them increase their outreach by sending donations made during our Nov. meeting. If you can't attend and wish to contribute, please send your donation to PCLR-415 N. McKinley St., #1040 Little Rock, AR 72205.

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.



Pax Christi Memphis is a chapter of Pax Christi USA. This Catholic peace and social justice movement strives to create a world that reflects the peace of Christ by witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. Over the years, this group of peacekeepers has initiated a host of programs that have contributed to the well-being of many in the Memphis area. Examples of more recent sponsored events include backpacks filled with supplies for the homeless at Manna House, a series of courses on nonviolence, a week of Action during Peace Week, and participation in a forum on the Death Penalty. PC-LR is proud to work with Pax Christi Memphis as we seek new ways to sow peace in our world.

PAX CHRISTI LR MEMBERS ATTEND NONVIOLENCE WORKSHOP



Pax Christi Memphis and Pax Christi Little Rock Members:
Paul Crum, Marian Paquette, George Simon, Jerry Bettice, Sandee Haslauer, Msgr. Kirk, Judy Bettice, S. Martin, S. Simon

Pax Christi Little Rock members travelled to Memphis on October 28 to attend a workshop sponsored by Pax Christi Memphis, ***Living Peacefully in a Violent World***. The course covered scripture, tradi-

tion and contemporary Church documents, including recent statements made by Pope Francis. It was held over two Saturday sessions, Oct. 14th and 24th. There were also four classes (cont p. 4)

Peace Offerings

Jack Greene Execution

(cont) evidence to support the supposition that Mr. Greene has grown increasingly psychotic during his time in prison. He believes that his attorneys along with prison officials are colluding against him in an elaborate scheme to cover up injuries he believes correction officers have inflicted on him.

Greene believes that his execution is part of this conspiracy. He has been consistently found standing on his head, stuffing pieces of toilet paper in his ears and nose until they bleed, eating from his sink, and perching on the toilet to protect himself from attack. He believes that prison officials and attorneys are trying to destroy his nervous system,

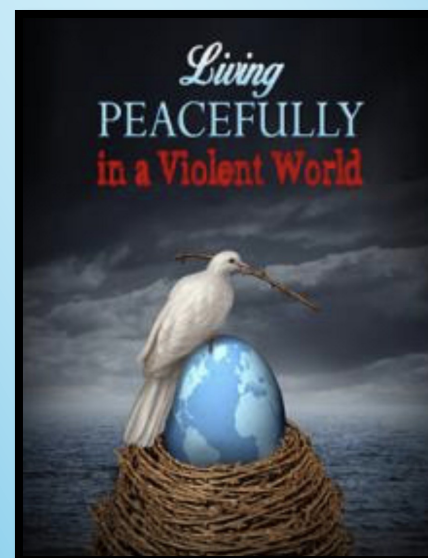
complaining that his spinal cord has been removed.

In 2009, Greene told an Arkansas judge that “my frontal lobe hurts so bad I have to stick my finger in the corner of my eye.” The state argues that Greene was found competent before his trial (1993), but the defense insists that he hasn't had a proper hearing on his current mental state. Arkansas set Greene's execution date soon after obtaining a new batch of execution drugs. The state paid \$250 in cash to an undisclosed supplier. Nationwide, according to Pew Research, public support for the death penalty has dropped to its lowest level in 40 years, although most remain pro-death penalty.

Nonviolence Workshop

(cont) held on four Thursday nights beginning Oct. 5. The course was led by Msgr. Al Kirk. Other presenters included Judy Bettice, Jerry Bettice, and Paul Crum. The information shared was quite in-depth, examining different aspects of living in a nonviolent manner across the environments of the workplace, home and the community at large.

The major focus of the workshop was to assist participants in understanding how to live out the Lord's command to be peacemakers in this violent world. Of particular interest was an analysis of Pope Francis' Message on the fiftieth World Day of Peace on Jan. 1, 2017. One point that seemed particularly important was that Christ taught that “the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart.” This is where our work begins. Throughout his life, “Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. In the words of St. Francis, ‘As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts.’”



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Peace Offerings

Patrick Gallaher Shares the Gift Of Catholic Charities of Arkansas

Patrick Gallaher, executive director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas, gave an overview of the services provided by this remarkable organization. The overall mission of CCA is to serve with dignity and respect persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice and the sanctity of life in the Church and community. He went into some detail regarding the following ministries that fall under the government of CCA:



- **Catholic Adoption Services**– This program helps birth mothers going through crisis pregnancies, assisting in the adoption process.
- **Westside Free Medical Clinic**– This free clinic provides routine health care through a volunteer staff. 1700 patients a year are served at Camp Aldersgate one night a week. The clinic includes eye exams, dermatology, PT, Chiropractic services, ENT, and general medical services.
- **Immigration Services-LR/Springdale**– This service provides low cost immigration counseling through a paralegal. They provide 20% of the services in AR. They only see clients who are at 200% below poverty level.
- **Refugee Resettlement Office**– Provides services to refugees, asylees, and special Immigrants.
- **Social Action Office**– This program teaches and promotes Catholic social doctrine. It ad-

vocates on behalf of DOLR by meeting with state politicians to inform them of the Church's position on pending legislation.

- **Prison Ministry**– Father Phillip Reaves is the head of this ministry that trains volunteers to respond to the spiritual needs of those incarcerated in the state prisons.
- **Parish Social Ministry Office**– Mr. Gallaher assists parishes throughout the state in designing outreach ministries to address local needs.
- **Catholic Relief Services**– Rebecca Cargile helps raise awareness and fundraises for this program, which is the official overseas relief and development agency for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- **Alcohol and Drug Ministry**– Provides information on alcohol and drug addiction issues and resources to parishes and other diocesan groups.
- **Disaster Preparation and Response**– Mr. Gallaher provided information on the ways that CCA assists in times of disaster. He talked extensively about relief efforts that are still ongoing in Vilonia and Mayflower, Arkansas following the tornadoes. CCA often takes on the role of long-term case management. He indicated that CCA works hand-in-hand with groups such as FEMA, the Red Cross, and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.

Peace Offerings

V Diocesan Encuentro of Hispanic Ministry

**"Missionary disciples:
Witnesses of God's Love"**

November 18, 2017

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Barton Coliseum

2600 Howard St. Little Rock, Arkansas

For more information:

Hispanic of Ministry Office

Sister Norma Edith Muñoz, mcp

(501) 664-0340

ext. 374 y ext. 397

*From every corner of
the State of Arkansas
Come and celebrate together
the joy of ENCuentro!*



There will be Priests
hearing confessions.
Bilingual Mass
at 4:00pm

