



PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

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Pax Christi
LITTLE ROCK

Peace Offerings

PCLR to Lead Book Study on

Building a Bridge by Fr. James Martin

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

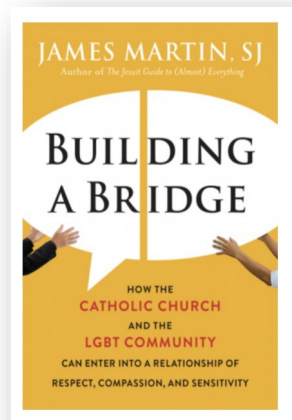
PCLR will be hosting a discussion on Fr. James Martin's book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion and Sensitivity*. The group discussion will begin at 7:30 on Thursday, September 14 and will be held at Fitzgerald Hall in St. John's Catholic Center, (2500 N. Tyler St., Little Rock, AR.

Fr. Martin was prompted to write this book following the Pulse night club massacre in June of 2016. He stated that he was concerned that the Catholic Church did not speak out on this crime against LGBT individuals, and he wrote this book to help in the healing of the rift between

the Church and the LGBT community.

Fr. Martin SJ, writes, "The LGBTQ community is still invisible in many quarters of the church. . . The work of the Gospel cannot be accomplished if one part of the church is essentially separated from any other part. Between the two groups, the LGBT community and the institutional church, a chasm has formed, a separation for which a bridge needs to be built" (p. 2).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Church should treat the LGBT community with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity." Fr. Martin insists that these virtues should apply on both sides as we begin the conversa-



tion to bring the Church and the LGBT community closer together. He indicates that the onus of this work is on the Church as the LGBT community has been marginalized both in the language used to label them and the resistance to inclusiveness within the Church. However, for the conversation to be successful, both sides must speak mindfully and respectfully to the other.

SAVE THE DATE

Patrick Gallaher, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas, will speak on recent disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey on Thurs., Oct. 5. He will also provide information on other Catholic Charities of AR ministries.

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Active Peacemaking Initiative

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

Teaching Children to Make Peace

Pax Christi Little Rock is working with it's Peace Partner, Rockefeller Elementary, to put forth several different peace initiatives during **Arkansas Peace Week (September 17-24, 2017)**. PCLR has donated 5 books on Peace that will be read during that week in all classes. We will also provide a **"Peace-A Party"** to the class that raises the most change for charity during Peace Week. We are donating Peace necklaces and buttons for the children to wear and several PCLR members will walk with these students during their Peace Walk on Friday, Sept. 22. Here is a list of Peace Week events at the school:

Monday- Rally for Peace & Love (cafeteria @ 9 a.m.)

ATA Karate presentation on peaceful conflict resolution.

Tuesday – Draw on Peace & Love (Art Contest Winners Announced)

Every student will draw a picture that depicts peace and love.

Wednesday- Write for Peace & Love (classrooms)

Students will write on the topic for journal. Writing prompts will be provided.

Thursday- Change for Peace & Love Competition ends

Each grade will compete in a loose change donation drive to contribute to local charity.

Friday - Walk in Peace & Love (8:30 a.m.)

All School Peace Walk (around the school perimeter and meeting on the track)

Saturday- Peace Fest at Central High (1-5 p.m.)

Students, Staff, and Community are invited to attend Arkansas Peace Fest at LR Central High School. Art winners pictures will be on display at booth sponsored by Pax Christi USA- Little Rock, Inc.

Pax Christi Provides Free Spanish Lessons for Peace Partners

Carolina Molina, a dear friend of Pax Christi Little Rock and a licensed high school Spanish teacher, recently offered to provide Spanish lessons via Skype free of charge for PCLR Peace Partners. So, we invited folks from the Honduras Mission, Serra Club, Diocese of LR staff, and seminarians living in the House of Formation to join us for 12 weekly, one-hour Spanish lessons. These classes began on Saturday, September 9 at 9 am and will continue on a weekly basis.



At our first meeting, there were 15 people from the various ministries in attendance. We learned some history of the Spanish language, initial vowel sounds, greetings and several vocabulary words. Lots of fun!

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 September meeting,

we will be supporting **Catholic Charities of Arkansas** as they work to assist in the disaster relief efforts following the damage sustained in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the recent earthquake in Mexico. Please be generous in your contributions.

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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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS



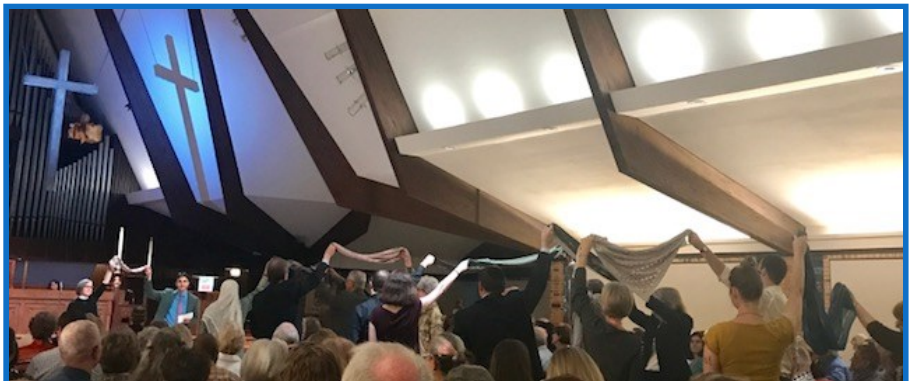
The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas is “to serve with dignity and respect persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice and the sanctity of life in the Church and community.” Ministries include sharing resources on alcohol/drug addiction, Catholic Adoption Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, immigration services (LR & Springdale), Catholic Relief Services, Parish Social Ministries, Prison Ministry, Refugee Resettlement, Social Action and Westside Free Medical Clinic.

ARKANSAS UNITED COMMUNITY COALITION EDUCATES COMMUNITY ON DACA REPEAL

The AR United Community Coalition (AUCC), an immigrants’ rights nonprofit organization founded in 2010, sponsored a forum to present information on what it will mean to immigrants if the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program is permanently cancelled. Pres. Trump ended the program last week, planning to phase it out “in an orderly, lawful wind-down.” Immigration attorneys, including Tom Travis, were pre-



sent to provide information and answer questions. Of primary interest to the audience was understanding their rights should they **(cont)**



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR 2017: BUILDING BRIDGES AN INTERFAITH CELEBRATION OF PEACE

Several Pax Christi Little Rock members were present last Thurs. at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church for the 7th Interfaith Celebration of Peace sponsored by the AR House of Prayer and the AR Interfaith Center. Fr. Taryn Whittington represented the Catholic Church at this ecumenical service where people of all faiths came together to celebrate the rich diversity of their beliefs and the community we share together.

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(DACA-cont) be apprehended by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents. Here are some of the rights outlined at the meeting:

In General:

Remain silent.

Don't run.

Speak with an attorney.

Request a local telephone call.

At Your House:

Do not open the door.

Always ask for ID/warrant.

Don't sign anything you don't understand.

In Your Car:

Do not lie or provide false documents.

If officers search your car, say "I do not consent."

Develop a Safety Plan:

Know what documents you should carry.

Make a plan to care for your family.

Make a copy of all your documents.

Memorize important information.

Report hate crimes by contacting AUCC.

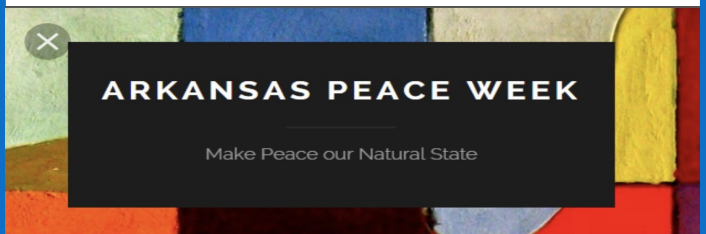
As supporters of dreamers, we can call AR Attorney General Rutledge, be informed, participate in direct actions and call legislators.

ARKANSAS PEACE WEEK

September 17-24, 2017

Arkansas Peace Week is a program of events planned in observance of the United Nation's International Day of Peace on September 21.

Arkansas Peace Week celebrates Peacemaking as a means to instill justice, build stronger communities, alleviate poverty, promote ecological stewardship, end war, eliminate the scourge of violence in our society, while seeking respect, inclusion and fair treatment of all people.



Scheduled activities are designed to educate and promote peacemaking in our society and raise awareness of organizations working to build a lasting peace in Arkansas. Arkansas Peace Week is conducted by a coalition of local, national and international organizations faith groups and individuals with a mission to promote peacemaking and justice. Numerous events are planned throughout the state, featuring education, service, dialogue and outreach activities promoting the mission of peace. It is planned in coordination with the nationwide Campaign Non-Violence Week of Actions.

If you would like to learn more about the specific events scheduled during Peace Week, go to www.arkansaspeaceweek.com or Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/ArPeaceWeek/ for the latest information.



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GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON SETS EXECUTION DATE FOR “DELUSIONAL” KILLER JACK GREENE

Arkansas is getting quite a reputation for executing prison inmates. Just four months after eight inmates were sentenced to die, the state has set another execution date. Jack Greene, 62, has been scheduled for lethal injection on November 9. According to his attorney, Mr. Greene is delusional and is not competent to understand his punishment. “The state has taken the next step toward executing a man who suffers from severe mental illness,” Greene’s federal defender, Scott Braden, said after Governor Hutchinson set the execution date.

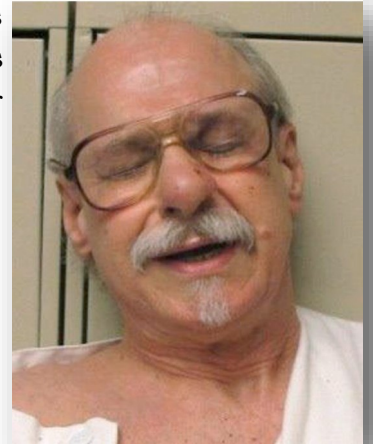
“Mr. Greene has long held a fixed delusion that the Arkansas Department of Correction is conspiring with his attorneys to cover up injuries that he believes corrections officers have inflicted upon him. He complains that his spinal cord has been removed and his

central nervous system has been destroyed. He believes he will be executed to cover up what he calls these ‘crimes against humanity.’”

Mr. Greene was sentenced to death for the 1991 murder of pastor Sidney Burnett days after he killed his own brother. The murder was torturous, with Mr.

Greene smashing in his head with a can of hominy, cutting him from mouth to ear and shooting him in his chest and head.

The state argues that Mr. Greene was found competent before his trial and sentencing, but the defense says he hasn’t had a recent assessment of his current mental state. Defense attorneys describe him as brain damaged and psychotic.



SOLES FOR SOULS

Pax Christi Little Rock continues to gather corks to donate to an international charity, [Soles4Souls](#). We are growing in our partnership with restaurants and individuals who are collecting corks for this project to make shoes for the underprivileged. PCLR recently partnered with Kemuri and Bonefish restaurants in Little Rock as well as a local wine club to supply corks to this charity.



MIRACLE OF THE MONTH

The miracle this month has to do with all of the Partners in Peace with whom Pax Christi Little Rock is developing relationships. Over the past few weeks, we have spoken with representatives from the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Charities of Little Rock, Arkansas United Community Coalition, Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, Winthrop Rockefeller Elementary School, restaurants who are partnering with us on our cork project, Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Fr. James Martin, SJ, and many other individuals who have been supportive of our efforts to bring Peace to our Natural State. Without the help of these organizations, ministries and individual angels, Pax Christi Little Rock would not be able to put into action the different projects that are clearly inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, from the bottom of our hearts we want to thank you for the energy and purpose you bring to our mission. Thank You!