



PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

April 6, 2021  
Volume 5, Issue 4

Pax Christi  
LITTLE ROCK

# Pax Christi Little Rock

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

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## Dr. Donnal Walter To Present Insightful Study into Pope Francis's Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*



Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:30 PM CDT  
**Pax Christi Little Rock**  
presents an overview of the Encyclical  
***Fratelli Tutti***  
"On Fraternity and Social Friendship"  
(On Universal Love and a Culture of Encounter)

**Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85833413678>**



Dr. Donnal Walter

Dr. Donnal Walter will be providing Pax Christi members with an overview of Pope Francis's encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, at the next Speaker Series meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 pm. Dr. Walter is a neonatologist currently working at Arkansas Children's Hospital and UAMS. He received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and has over 45 years of experience in the medical field. Dr. Walter is also a member of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. He has done an extensive study of *Fratelli Tutti* and has shared his thoughtful work with many in the Christian community.

*Fratelli Tutti* is an encyclical written by Pope Francis and released to Catholic Churches worldwide on the feast day of St. Francis, October 4, 2020. *Fratelli Tutti* means "all brothers and sisters" and addresses the global problems on which the coronavirus pandemic has shed light. It is given as a radical challenge, offering a blueprint of a world that is possible after the coronavirus if we adopt a "culture of care." The Gospel story at the heart of *Fratelli Tutti* is that of the Good Samaritan, challenging us to reach out to those in need, caring for our neighbor.



## Peace Offerings

## Pantry Box Project: Getting to Know the Folks Who Moved into Homes in March



A happy and blessed Holy Week to all of our Pantry Box Ministry volunteers! We made it through Lent! Although there were only three people we helped in March, we are reminded not to just count the numbers. To those three people we made a real difference and helped them to be able to move into their own home.

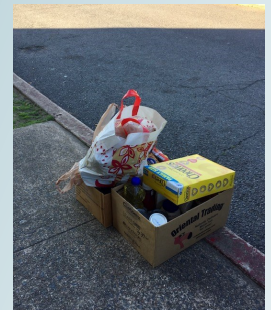
The first person in March who moved to permanent housing was Michelle. She is a 45-year-old woman who is divorced. Addiction caused her to lose her job and she ended up being homeless. She has now overcome her addiction issues and is happy to have a place to call home. Michelle has encountered some life-changing health issues and is very focused on trying to stay well. Having a home will really help her in this struggle. Michelle enjoys nature and being outside.



The second person moved was Lee Andrew, a 68-year-old Army Veteran who is now retired. He has 3 sons, a daughter and 9 grandchildren. He used to run and competed in marathons, but he now has some serious back problems that make it difficult for him to get around. He is able to receive support services from the VA. Lee Andrew loves to play pool and read National Geo-

graphic.

The third person placed in a home in March was Ms. Vicki, a 64-year-old woman originally from South Carolina. She has been in Little Rock since 2003. She has 3 sons and 8 grandchildren. Ms. Vicki was living at Our House until her time ran out and then she ended up living in her car. She loves our Lord, making jewelry and beading. She also sews, reads and likes watching movies. By chance, Settled Souls decorated her place in blue, which turned out to be her favorite color. She was thrilled and wanted the Settled Souls interior designers to know that she was in love with her new place!



I saw in the newspaper recently that the number of homeless in LR is decreasing. I can't help but think that the efforts of Jericho Way, Settled Souls and Pax Christi Little Rock are some part of that trend.

Thanks to all of you who help with this wonderful ministry. In April, we have eight moves scheduled and hope to catch up for lost time. Our next packing meeting will be Sunday, May 2nd at 3 pm at St. John's Center Dining Hall. We should have used all of our packed tubs by then. What a fantastic blessing that will be!

Love and blessings,  
Susi Blanco

P.S. So happy to share that IC is back to providing the cleaning baskets! Yay!



## Peace Offerings

### Pax Christi LR Continues Study on Nonviolence with PCUSA

Pax Christi Little Rock has joined other Pax Christi USA members in studying *Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World*. This book is a culmination of the three year global conversation among church leaders, community organizers, activists, social scientists and theologians on how the Catholic Church might return to its Gospel nonviolence roots and work together to transform the violence so prevalent in our lives.

The study involves zoom presentations by contributing authors alternating with local group meetings. Pax Christi LR members have been hearing the authors' experiences working with the Vatican and other groups in developing a better foundation for nonviolence in our world.

#### ADVANCING NONVIOLENCE AND JUST PEACE IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

##### STUDY GROUP SCHEDULE

**Participants:** Sherry, George, Jan, Lee, Susi, Martina, Mary

**Wednesday, March 3** (optional-90 min PCUSA zoom session-time TBA Monday, March 1-I'll let you know)- **Preface**-Zoom link TBA

**Monday, March 8 @1 pm** Local group meeting-**Preface**-Zoom link to be provided

**Wednesday, March 17** (optional-PCUSA) **Part I: Returning to Nonviolence**

**Monday, March 22 @1 pm** Local group meeting-**Part I: Returning to Nonviolence**

**Wednesday, March 31** (optional-PCUSA) **Part II: Foundation of Nonviolence**

**Monday, April 5 @ 1 pm** Local group-**Part II: Foundation of Nonviolence**

**Wednesday, April 14** (optional-PCUSA) **Part III: The Practice and Power of Nonviolence**

**Monday, April 19 @ 1 pm** Local group- **Part III: The Practice and Power of Nonviolence**

**Wednesday, April 28** (optional-PCUSA) **Part IV: Embracing Nonviolence**

**Monday, May 3 @ 1 pm** Local group- **Part IV: Embracing Nonviolence**

The zoom sessions with PCUSA will include one hour of information taught by contributors to the book plus one hour break-out sessions for discussion in small groups. These are optional but I think at least the first hour might be beneficial in helping us delve more deeply into the book. We will meet as a local group on Mondays at 1 pm. I will send a zoom link each Monday morning. I look forward to learning from this book and learning more about each of you.

Call or text Sherry at 258-8653 if you have any questions.

**SAVE *the* DATE**

Sunday,  
**April 11, 2021**  
**2:00pm**

Heifer International  
1 World Avenue, Little Rock  
to  
Beacon of Peace & Hope  
120 Riverfront Drive  
North Little Rock

7th ANNUAL  
**PILGRIMAGE**  
**For PEACE**



Remembrance  
Service  
3:00 pm  
Honoring those  
who died at the  
hand of violence.

[www.pilgrimageforpeace.com](http://www.pilgrimageforpeace.com)

[www.facebook.com/PilgrimageforPeaceLR](https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimageforPeaceLR)

## Interfaith Prayer

In the spirit of love and compassion, let us pray.

Spirit of Life, God of many names, be in our hearts and minds as we come together today to pray for our world. We come today as people of privilege, grateful for this blessing, and hopeful for our future. Allow us to know that each from our own tradition comes today to lift our spirit in unity. Knowing that we are part of an interconnected web of life, let us acknowledge and embrace our oneness. We pray that we may be loving and able stewards of this world. We pray that we acknowledge our differences as we seek out our common ground, each of us working toward the good of all. We recognize that there is hurt and sorrow, deeds that confound us, and actions for which we can find no justification. Yet, we also know that there is untold good, folks that work every day for the benefit of all people. Let us stand with them. We pray that we have the strength to recognize the inconvenience of our soul work and to overcome the inertia that invades us during these difficult times. We pray that while we recognize the occasional tiredness in our bones and in our hearts, that we call upon the strength of our higher power that we might be the best person we are called to be. Yes, let us be the good we want to see in others. Let us work to be the change we seek. As we renew these goals in our hearts, let us say, Amen.

## Peace Offerings

### Bertasi Sets \$5000 Goal for Bluebird House Fundraiser



Raymond's Workshop

A true friend to Pax Christi Little Rock, Raymond Bertasi works hard making beautiful bluebird houses in his woodworking shop. He spends several hours each week putting these homes together, making the poles and even topping each house off with a painted bluebird. His goal is to raise \$5000 to be used to buy backpacks filled with school supplies for elementary students in 4 Arkansas schools. So far, Raymond has raised \$3,690 before expenses and has built and shared 40 birdhouses. If you



New Home

would like to be a part of the Pax Christi bluebird trail, contact Raymond at **paxtinyworkshop@gmail.com** to order a house. For a minimum donation of \$75, you will receive a birdhouse. For \$100, you will receive a birdhouse attached to a six-foot pole. And for \$125 you will receive a birdhouse, pole and Pax Christi mask. For every \$100 donated, 6 children will receive backpack and school supplies for a year.



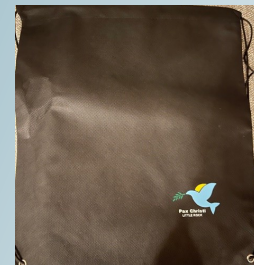
Beej and Raymond

### PCLR Initiates "Blessing Bag" Program for Homeless on Streets



Blessing Bag Committee

Pax Christi Little Rock came up with an idea at their January Planning meeting to make bags filled with food and hygiene items for the homeless in Little Rock (blessing bags). A committee was established including Jan Pipkin (chairperson), Sandee Haslauer, Martina Pierini, Jacques Pierini, and Sherry Simon. The first organizational meeting was held on Friday, April 2. The committee decided that the first step was to fill 5 bags for each board member to give out to the homeless on Little Rock streets. The bags will be filled with



Blessing Bag

items including a roll of nickels for bus transfers, resource pocket guides for needed services, granola bars, mask, hygienic wipes, reading glasses, socks, water bottles, panchos, plastic bags, gum/tictacs, and halo tangerines.

Once board members have the experience of sharing these bags with folks they encounter on the street, Pax Christi will send representatives out to parish youth groups to speak with them about using this ministry as a service project and working together to make "blessing bags" for their parishes to hand out.



## Peace Offerings

# AN EASTER MESSAGE

## BISHOP JOHN STOWE, OFM CONV.

### BISHOP-PRESIDENT, PAX CHRISTI USA



Bishop Stowe

**“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”**

**Luke 24:5**

That was the question from the angels poised outside the empty tomb to the faithful women who had arrived to perform the sad but

reverent ritual of giving a proper anointing to the already buried body of Jesus. How could they grasp the startling meaning of those words? It defies all of human experience and they had witnessed with their own eyes the tragic end of Jesus' earthly life even as many of his followers joined in the taunts of the deriders or ran away in disappointment and despair.

With the evidence of an empty tomb before their eyes, and knowing how soundly the tomb was sealed and how securely it was protected, what other kind of answer could there be? Is it true?

It is a challenging question, especially for Christians, throughout the ages. It is one that as Pax Christians we should ask ourselves as well during this Eastertide. **Do we acknowledge how “our way of life” may actual-**

**ly be related to the culture of death?** We live in a nation that again and again chooses to build up state-of-the-art weaponry and seeks to employ the best of technology for the purpose of destroying human life — often claiming that our defense is for the



**“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”**

purpose of protecting “our way of life”. We know the industries that engage in weapons research (including nuclear weapons) employ many people, i.e. “provide a living” for them. Is that not like searching for the living among the dead?

What about the preservation of a culture that depended on the enslavement of people from Africa? Monuments and plaques that the descendants of the enslaved must see day after day and the rebel flag flapping in the breeze defended as a symbol of “our way of life”? And what about those unaccompanied minors, teenagers, little kids, toddlers held in confinement at our southern border because their presence might threaten “our way of life”, as if they were taking bread from our tables rather than eager to work to provide for those tables? They ran away from death-dealing gangs and the devastating consequences of climate change which eliminated their ability to provide for themselves — and no one offered a hand.

There are many more examples that resemble the apparent failure of Good Friday as Jesus' body was sealed in a tomb. But that cannot be and is not the end of the story.

With the celebration of Easter, hope is reborn. **Life is possible, we learn, even in the midst of what appears to be death.** If our eyes are open, we can't help but see the Good Fridays that are all around us, the plight of a crucified people. Our faith assures us that they will know life in abundance. What a great celebration and great tribute to the Risen Christ it would be to separate ourselves from the powers of death and stop looking for the Living One among the dead. “He has gone ahead of you” (Matthew 28:7) are great words of promise from the angel to the women at the tomb ... and to us. Jesus has shown us the way to the fullness of life. Let us commit ourselves to that life in abundance that God desires for all the human family. **Christ Is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

## Peace Offerings

**SAVE THE DATE****PAX CHRISTI LR  
BOARD MEETING****Thursday, April 8****6 pm via Zoom****All Board Members have  
been emailed a Zoom link**

This series of three workshops on Living Nonviolently in a Violent World: The Legacy of Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis will take place on April 12, 19, and 26 at 3 pm CST via zoom. The presenters are Fr. Albert Kirk and Therese Gustaitis.

To register, go to:

**<http://bit.ly/livingnonviolently>**

These workshops will discuss the 21st century Popes' teachings on peace and nonviolence. Learn how to live in the present moment with nonviolent thoughts and action. Learn how to resist the social culture of violence. Please join us in learning the way of nonviolence with our friends at Pax Christi Memphis.

**SAVE THE DATE****PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK****MAY SPEAKER SERIES****WEDNESDAY, MAY 19****6:30PM****LEE AND LORI WILBUR****DIVINE MERCY HEALTH  
CENTER**

**The mission of Divine Mercy Healthcare Center is to provide a faith-inspired health care system that elevates human dignity through coordination of community based resources with medical services to achieve better physical, mental, and spiritual health.**

**[Divinemercuryhealthcenter.org](http://Divinemercuryhealthcenter.org)**