

PEACE OFFERINGS

PCLR Board Members

- Mary Hunt (President)
- Sherry Simon (V. President)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Lee Bass (Chairperson)
- Ashley Legere
- Jacques Pierini
- Martina Pierini
- Jan Pipkin
- George Simon
- Tamara Tahat
- Father Warren Harvey (Chaplain)

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

Contact Information

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- Facebook:
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paxchristilr@gmail.com

PCLR Speaker Series: Sr. Iliana Aponte Presents *Empowering Latino Families*



Sr. Iliana Aponte

Pax Christi Little Rock will host **Sr. Iliana Aponte, DC** on **Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 pm**. She will be present at Fitzgerald Hall to share her thoughts on the different ways community can be utilized to support Latino families here in the United States. Sr. Iliana recently received her Master's Degree in Social Work (Bilingual) from Loyola University in Chicago. She has worked with Catholic Charities of Arkansas as their Parish Outreach Liaison since 2020.

Sr. Iliana loves to work with families. She believes that the family plays an integral role in our society and so requires special attention. Sr. Iliana stated that she believes it is of utmost importance to actively listen, empathize and be present to individuals, working to empower people both singularly and within families. She stated that "when there is unity, things become less of a struggle and there is a bigger positive impact." Sr. Iliana quoted Pope Francis in saying, "No one

saves oneself. The community is essential." In addition to understanding the importance of unity, community and sending positive messages to others, Sr. Iliana also loves to have fun! She plays volleyball and enjoys dancing, often engaging in these activities within her own communities.

If you are unable to attend Sr. Iliana's presentation in person, you can utilize the following zoom link and attend the meeting virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8684>

PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK PRESENTS
SR. ILIANA APONTE, DC
PARISH OUTREACH LIAISON
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF AR



EMPOWERING THE LATINO FAMILY: UNITY AND STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

Thursday, August 18
6:30 pm

Fitzgerald Hall
St. John's Catholic Center
paxchristilr@gmail.com

An InterFaith Celebration of Peace through music, prayer, and wisdom
Followed by The InterFaith Food Festival*
MASKS REQUESTED
Sponsored by: Arkansas House of Prayer and The InterFaith Center
MORE INFO ABOUT ARLP AT: www.arlp.org



THURSDAY, SEPT. 8 - 6 P.M. - ALL ARE WELCOME
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 1000 N. MISSISSIPPI - LITTLE ROCK
OR JOIN US ONLINE AT WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/THEINTERFAITHCENTER

An InterFaith Celebration of Peace
through music, prayer, and wisdom

Followed by
The InterFaith Food Festival*
*all food served will be individually boxed

Sponsored by: Arkansas House of Prayer and The InterFaith Center
For more information visit: theinterfaithcenter.org
Masks Requested

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi LR Pantry Mission

Updates: July, 2022

Dear Pantry volunteers,

Thank you for your ongoing assistance in helping to provide food and working to actively settle previously unsheltered individuals and families into their new homes. It is so wonderful to see that many of our Food Pantry volunteers are also signing up to help with the actual moves. Pax Christi members can be seen all over the diocese helping out in so many ways!

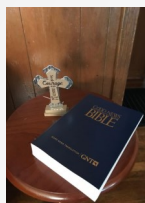
Our next food pantry packing meeting will be held at the Dining Hall in St. John's Center on Sunday, September 11 at 3 pm. Please bring all of your assigned foods. We will be packing 5 tubs to be used on future moves. God bless each one of you always!



On July 12, Mike B's Settled Souls team helped settle in Roy. Roy is disabled. His father has not been present in his life

and his mother has passed. Roy lived at times with his sister, but he has never had a place of his own until now. He was very excited about all that Settled Souls did to make his new place feel more like a home. Roy said that he is a follower of the Lord and was grateful to share prayer time with the move team before they left his apartment. Many thanks to Leslie, Raymond and Lee for taking care of food pantry items and helping with the move.

On July 19, Mike B's team helped settle Wayne into his new home. Last year, Wayne lost his son, brother and niece. This contributed to him becoming homeless



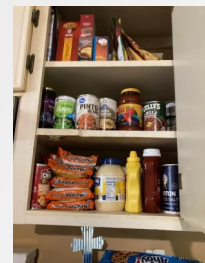
in November of 2021.

He moved to Little Rock last February to be closer to his sister and was able to get a job as a janitor. Wayne was very grateful with all Settled Souls did to make his new place feel more like a home. Thanks to Lee Bass and Mary Dandurand for the food!



On July 28, Settled Souls helped Brittany and her children settle into a new home. Brittany's mother is going to join them in the home. Brittany escaped an unhealthy situation with her previous

husband that contributed to her being homeless with minimal home goods. She received a housing voucher and found a rent home that will hold her family. Brittany is taking steps in the right direction. She has a new job where she can work from home. Brittany was thrilled about all of the household items and food provided. Both she and her mother were



excited and felt many connections to the art work that was chosen for their rooms. Many thanks to Jan Pipkin for the nourishing food and the help getting this family moved in.

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi LR Members Participate in the 40-Day Fast for Christian Nonviolence

Rosemarie Pace, Co-coordinator of Pax Christi New York State, invited Pax Little Rock members to join her group and others in a 40-day fast for nonviolence, ending on August 9, the anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki, Japan. Pax Christi Little Rock members fasted every Tuesday in solidarity with many others across the country.



Although it is not well known, Nagasaki was the largest Christian community in Japan at the time of the bombing. As Christians, we must never forget the horror unleashed upon innocent civilians who were powerless in the face of war. As this fast draws to a close, we remember the bombing and pray for the abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of war—be they bombs or bullets, hatred, fear, vengeance, or greed.

Each Tuesday during the fast, each participant shared a prayer for peace. Here is the closing prayer, written by **Fr. John Dear**, called **A Gathering Storm of Hope**:

God of peace, as we remember our sisters and brothers killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we repent of the atomic bomb, of those horrific acts and of all the death and destruction that we have wrought.

As our country continues to design, build, and maintain these genocidal weapons of mass destruction, we repent

of our mortal sin.

As our country threatens the whole human race and the entire planet, we repent of our willingness to destroy the gift of your Creation.

As we continue to hold the world hostage and commit the ultimate act of terrorism by threatening to use these nuclear weapons, we repent of nuclear terrorism and the fear, distrust, and infidelity we spread.

For our silence, indifference, fear and despair, we repent. For all the violence we have personally committed, and for our own complicity with the culture of war and nuclear weapons, we repent.

Disarm our hearts, disarm our cities, disarm our military and our nation, disarm our world. Give us the gift of a world without war, poverty, or nuclear weapons, a new world of peace.

And so we pledge—

In this world of hatred, indifference, fear and anxiety to be instruments of your love;

In this world of selfishness, greed, and materialism, to be instruments of your selfless service and generosity;

In this world of revenge, retaliation, and resentment, to be instruments of your mercy, compassion, and forgiveness;

In this world of doubt and despair, to be instruments of faith and hope;

In this world of lies and darkness, to be instruments of truth and light;

In this world of war, nuclear weapons, and death, to be instruments of your peace, nonviolence and life.

Peace Offerings

School Supplies Packed and Delivered to Four Arkansas Elementary Schools

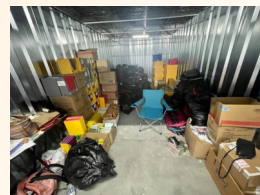


Pax Christi Little Rock volunteers spent two weeks at the end of July buying, hauling,

packing and delivering school supplies to St. Theresa's Catholic School, North Little Rock Catholic Academy, Broadmoor Elementary in Pine Bluff and Booker T. Washington Elementary in Little Rock. As part of the backpack project, PCLR raised an additional \$1150 (to add to the \$1450 already budgeted) to provide \$100 gift cards for 24 teachers at Carol Smith Elementary in Osceola.



This school has been our peace partner for several years, but this year they set up a new schedule, starting school in mid-July before PCLR could obtain the school supplies. Since teachers are always helping out their students with

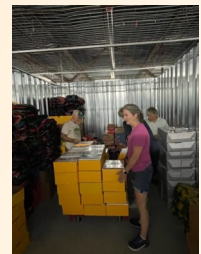


school supplies, Pax Christi decided to support the teachers! The backpack program has been coordinated by the Pax Christi Little Rock treasurer, Sherry Martin, since its inception in 2017. Sherry stores supplies at her home all year long as she looks for "bargains" so that PCLR can stay within budget and provide for as many schools as possible.



Once again this year, Pax Christi did not hold a "packing party" due to heightened Covid concerns. However, we hope to return to sharing this project with many other volunteers next year.

Thanks also to Tony and Jan Pipkin, Raymond and Leslie Bertasi, Jeff and Paula Kalina, George and Sherry Simon, Sandee Haslauer, Isabel Adams, and Tamara Tathat for their hours of work packing and delivering supplies.



Peace Offerings

Four PCLR Board Members Attend PCUSA 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, DC



Pax Christi LR

Jan Pipkin, Mary Hunt, George Simon and Sherry Simon represented Pax Christi Little Rock at the Pax Christi USA 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, DC on August 4-7. There was a pre-conference meeting of all Pax Christi State Chapter representatives on Thursday and Friday. This was an opportunity for state leaders who had only had the opportunity to meet via zoom



C. Garcia-Trujillo



Intergenerational Panel

previously to get to know one another in person and share "best practices" for their group. The keynote speaker for the conference was Archbishop John Wester

from the diocese of Santa Fe. He spoke on the importance of nuclear disarmament as he shared in his pastoral letter written ear-

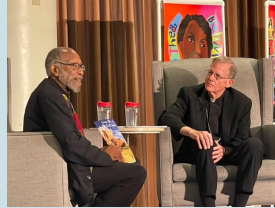


PCUSA Day Declared



Pax Christi Memphis

lier this year. Archbishop Wester and Msgr. East of Washington, DC also participated in a public discussion on



Msgr. East & Arch B. Wester

nuclear disarmament. The second day of the conference consisted of break-out sessions on a variety of topics including anti-racism, demilitarization, LGBTQ+ concerns, environmental issues, problems facing indigenous populations, etc. There was a banquet and dance enjoyed by all participants Saturday evening. The Cheick Hamala Diabate band got everyone up on the



PCUSA Gala



PCUSA Staff Honored

dance floor! That evening, the PCUSA staff was honored for their hard work during this anniversary year. On Sunday morning, Bishop

Stowe and Archbishop Wester celebrated mass. Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International senior advisor, former director of Maryknoll Global Con-



Marie Dennis

cerns, author, and member of the Assisi community was awarded the PCUSA 50th Anniversary Teacher of Peace award.

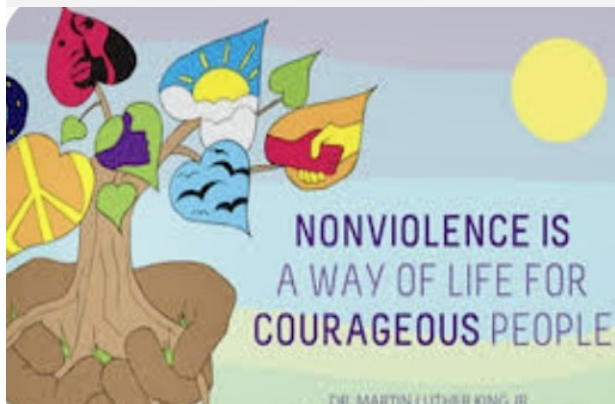


Johnny Zokovitch

Peace Offerings

SAVE THE DATE**PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK**

PRESENTS

JOHN COFFIN**DONNAL WALTER****THE ALTERNATIVES TO
VIOLENCE PROJECT****Thursday, September 15****6:30 pm****Fitzgerald Hall****St. John's Catholic Center****paxchristilr@gmail.com****for questions****PCUSA Engages Members in March
to the Pentagon After Conference
in Protest of US Ongoing
Investment in Nuclear Weapons**

PCLR Joins March

On Sunday, August 7 following mass and the closing ceremonies of the 50th Anniversary PCUSA Conference, approximately 70 PCUSA members walked to the Pentagon carrying ban-

ners and protesting the proliferation nuclear arms. Members from all over the country gathered in an action led by Art Laffin



PCUSA Approaches Pentagon



PCLR Members Arrive at Pentagon

and Jean Stokan, PCUSA Ambassadors of Peace. Members chanted and sang anti-war songs throughout the walk. Once all arrived at the Pen-

tagon, Jean and Scott Stokan, Roxana Bendezu, and Art Laffin spoke on the importance of decreasing the military budget and redirecting funds to social programs. **#breadnotstones**



Jean Stokan and Art Laffin

Peace Offerings

PCLR ATTENDS TASTE OF FAITH IN SUPPORT OF DOLR SEMINARIANS



(FR) Verochia Peters, Alma Stewart, R. Bernard
(BR) Tracy Rios, Peyton Bishop, Dcn Mark Rios

Pax Christi Little Rock sponsored a table at the 2022 Taste of Faith Banquet, a fundraiser for the seminarians in the Diocese of

Little Rock. Eight friends of Pax Christi Little Rock attended: Father Warren Harvey, Deacon Mark Rios, Tracy Rios, Verochia Peters, Alma Stewart, Sandee Haslauer, Peyton Bishop and Rodney Bernard. The dinner was held at the State House Convention Center. This is the first time the event has been held in person since 2020



Sandee Haslauer & Peyton Bishop



(FR) Verochia Peters, Alma Stewart
(BR) Rodney Bernard, Fr. W. Harvey

due to Covid concerns. The attendees were entertained throughout the evening with music, entertainment and testimonials provided by the seminarians. This event has successfully raised funds to support DOLR seminarians for several years. It costs \$36,000 per year to educate and provide for the living expenses of one seminarian.

Church of the Holy Spirit
August 27th 10am -2:30pm

Gospel Nonviolence Day of Reflection and Sharing

JOHNNY ZOKOVITCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LAUREN BAILEY, FIELD ORGANIZER
PAX CHRISTI USA

Johnny will share his wisdom and insights about Pax Christi at the national level. Lauren travels around the country listening to the voices of the local groups.

RSVP: Janice Vanderhaar
Email: gvanderh@earthlink.net
Cell: 901 283 9362

Please arrive
at 9:45 am to
sign in for this
Reflection
Day
A light lunch
will be served
Good will
offering
appreciated

**VOICES OF EXPERIENCE
ON THE DEATH
PENALTY
8.16.22
CENTRAL CHURCH
OF CHRIST
823 WEST 6TH ST.
LITTLE ROCK, AR
6:30 PM**

Sponsored By:
Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement
Death Penalty Action
Decarcerate
From Noose to Needle
Pax Christi Little Rock

Featuring Death Penalty Action's
**CHARLES KEITH
ABE BONOWITZ & REV. DR. JEFF HOOD**

ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS
EXECUTIVE JUSTICE
NOT PEOPLE!
STOP THE DEATH PENALTY
MORE JUSTICE

I have watched the cultures of all lands blow around my house and other winds have blown the seeds of peace, for 'Travel is the Language of Peace. Mahatma Gandhi

Peace Offerings

If We Stop to Listen, We Find Answers to Our Biggest Questions All Around Us



Have you ever gone through periods in your life when you felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with life on a day to day basis? I was going through a time like that about a month ago following a prolonged illness that

seemed to take away all the good energy that I had felt over these past years. I was worried that it would never come back. I kept trying to move forward, but really all I wanted to do was sleep.

Luckily for me, Pax Christi Little Rock had planned a retreat at Subiaco with Cackie Upchurch back in January, 2022 that had to be postponed due to Covid until this July. At first, I was not thinking I could go because of all the different things I had on my plate to catch up for lost time. However, once I got there, things began to change. Cackie reminded us all about the importance of being present in each moment, something I had not been focusing on recently. My mind began to slow down and I began pulling away from all of the “shoulds” waiting for me back in Little Rock.

Then, on our second day of retreat, Cackie gave us some homework. She asked us to consider what images drew us closer to God. I had the opportunity to find a space outside on the pastoral grounds of Subiaco to consider this question more deeply. I found a shaded arbor where I sat for a time quietly taking in the intricate vines of wisteria that wove their way across the top of this secluded spot. Their woven tapestry provided rare respite from the 100 degree heat outside. A cool breeze blew through a protected sanctuary and I saw birds through the leaves building nests in the branches. Was this an image of God? All I could think of was the understanding I had received years

ago in Honduras—we are all connected. So then it came to me that perhaps I didn’t need to put so much pressure on myself to be perfect and get it all done myself. Without concern for criticism and rebuke and simply growing where

they are led by their Creator, these vines formed a beautiful shelter, a space to be shielded from the hot sun and reflect on life’s deeper questions. They had a purpose. And although each began as a singular tree, once they joined there was no distinguishing one from the others. We are all intertwined so intricately with one another and with God whether we are aware of it or not. Standing alone, there is nothing new created. But letting go (being vulnerable and open) and not thinking just about myself, leaves room for so many possibilities with others. No pride of place, no seeking of power—all connected into one living organism, supporting one another and supporting life.

How does the vine know in which direction to grow? There is no planning, no motivations or goals set before the joining. It simply seeks. . . life. Suddenly, all of my own perceived list of things that “I must get done” seemed much less important. Because I wasn’t alone. And because maybe I could trust the vine to lead me in a positive direction in



each moment without fretting constantly over my own agenda. The agenda that separates me from others and from Life.

I am the vine and you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing. A man who does not live in me is like a withered, rejected branch, picked up to be thrown into the fire and burnt. If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will—it will be done for you. John 15: 5-7

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi Little Rock Membership Application

Pax Christi Little Rock is a chapter of Pax Christi USA, a Catholic peace and social justice movement rooted in prayer, study and action that works towards both personal and social transformation. We are committed to the peace, nonviolence, justice and compassion that are the heart of the gospel message of Jesus. More than ever, Pax Christi Little Rock needs people who are willing to help achieve this goal of nonviolence in our world. We invite you to join our efforts to build a sustainable peace in which each person is treated equitably, for it is only through achieving social justice that peace may be attained.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Membership Dues are \$25 per year. Please send a check along with this form to:

Sherry Martin -2 Willow Oak Cove- Maumelle, AR 72113.

To donate online, visit paxchristilittlerock.org and press the donate button. Provide your name, address and email and make a note that your donation goes towards membership dues.