

PEACE OFFERINGS

Pax Christi Little Rock Board Members

- Mary Hunt (President)
- Sherry Simon (V. President)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Lee Bass (Chairperson)
- Sr. Iliana Aponte, DC
- Jan Pipkin
- Rosalyn Pruitt
- Tim Pruitt
- George Simon
- Tamara Tahat
- Father Warren Harvey (Chaplain)

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

Contact Information

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Pax Christi Little Rock Invites Immigration Experts to Educate Membership on Global and Local Migration Issues

PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

presents a
Three-part Speaker's Series
exploring

GLOBAL IMMIGRATION



Rev. Guillermo Campuzano, C.M.
V. President, DePaul University
Mission and Ministry Division
"Understanding Global Migration"
February 16, 6:30 pm CST
Virtual presentation-Fitzgerald Hall
Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89373988829>



Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J.
Executive Director, Catholic Charities
of the Rio Grande Valley
**"Humanity and Security
at the Southern Border"**
March 16, 6:30 pm CST
Virtual presentation-Fitzgerald Hall
Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88447946837>



Ingrid Castrillo
Immigration Specialist,
Catholic Charities of Arkansas
"The Reality of Immigration in Arkansas"
April 20, 6:30 pm CST
Live presentation-Fitzgerald Hall
Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89207132331>

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Mary Hunt Turned Worry Into Action



Chris Price

Name: Mary Hunt
Parish: Christ the King
City: Little Rock
Age: 68
Family: Husband, Kevin; three children, Jessica, Jodi and Ryan; and four grandchildren

Why you want to know Mary:

Mary Hunt is in her first year as president of Pax Christi Little Rock. She moved to Little Rock with her family in 1993 to take an information technology and services position until she retired from FIS and its predecessors in May 2020. In addition to being a founding member of Pax Christi in 2016, she has served as a missionary 10 days a year with a team of nearly 100 doctors, nurses, construction workers, teachers and others to provide care to the people of Trujillo, Honduras; has helped rebuild homes and infrastructure that suffered from hurricane damage in Miraflores, Puerto Rico and regularly volunteers in central Arkansas with Our House, Divine Mercy Health Center, Braver Angels and Christ the King's adoration chapel.

IN HER OWN WORDS*What feeds you spiritually?*

I am in awe of the beauty of our world. The words of Jesus in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount are what I try to live up to. I read and listen to several authors, such as Father Jacques Philippe, Father Richard Rohr, Brian McLaren and others from the

Center for Action and Contemplation.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up Catholic in a small northern Indiana town, Rochester. I met Kevin at Butler University in Indianapolis. The week I graduated, we married and moved to Arizona. Our children were born and baptized in Phoenix. Due to the job market, we moved back to Indiana in 1992 and then relocated to Little Rock in 1993.

What is the mission of Pax Christi?

Our mission is to work toward creating a world that reflects the peace of Christ by emulating Jesus' examples and teachings of nonviolence and charity found in the Gospels. Major causes of violence are social injustices, such as poverty, hunger, racism, pollution of our planet, etc. We seek to relieve these injustices with nonviolent solutions.

How do you put the mission into action?

Pax Christi Little Rock provides backpacks filled with school supplies to all children in various schools in central Arkansas. We also organize and conduct the annual Pilgrimage for Peace during the spring to honor those who have died at the hands of violence in central Arkansas. We also supply a pantry of food staples and fresh food to those who are being homed by Jericho Way and Our House. We also conduct a Speaker Series on the third Thursday evening of each month where a local non-profit presents their mission.

How did you get involved in Pax Christi?

In 2016, Dr. Sherry Simon invited me to be a founding member of a new Little Rock chapter. At the time, I was sick with worry

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and disgust over the horrible violence in our country toward Black lives and law enforcement officers. I was also fed up with the horrible political campaign mud-slinging and name-calling. I am a work in progress, but I have been able to replace most of my worry about injustice in our world with the knowledge that none of us are responsible to make a difference alone. We are to do what we can when we can, and Christ will do the rest.

Why would you recommend Pax Christi to other Catholics?

Working with the incredibly kind and loving people that make up Pax Christi has deepened my faith and brought about inner peace and love for others that I didn't know could exist. We have space for all levels of participation and many opportunities to contribute a little time to a variety of projects. We have found that it is in the process of working on these projects that we find Christ always in the middle of us. — Chris Price

The above re-printed article appeared in the February 4 issue of the Arkansas Catholic. Written by Chris Price, it is an article featured under the byline: "Catholics You Want to Know."



Mother Mary Lange
* FOUNDESS, EDUCATOR, NURSE, ADVOCATE *
AROUND 1789 - FEBRUARY 3, 1882

"Providence will Provide"
-Motto of the Oblate Sisters of Providence-

* DID YOU KNOW? *

- Little is known about Mother Mary's early life. The most prevalent theory is that she was born in Haiti before her family fled the Haitian Revolution or shortly after in Cuba. She was well-educated as a child, indicating that the family was wealthy. She emigrated to the United States in the early 1800s and settled in Baltimore by 1813.
- In Baltimore, Mother Mary saw the great need for education of the Black children and refugees. She used her own money to start teaching them out of her home. In 1828 she met Sulpician Priest James Joubert, who encouraged the Bishop to fund a school for Black girls. Father James also became her spiritual director.
- On July 2, 1829, with Father James as their spiritual leader, Mother Mary started the first US congregation for Black Women and she, along with three other women, made vows. In the face of racism, they responded with love and trust in Divine Providence, serving the community in any way they could. Her cause for canonization began in 1991.

Prayer for Syria and Turkey

Dear God,

In the face of unspeakable tragedy, the suffering of those in our community, and the destruction and loss of life in Syria and Turkey, we pray what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 10:

Lord, you know the hopes of the hopeless. Surely, you will hear their cries and comfort them. You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed.

Comfort the people whose family members and friends have died as a result of these earthquakes. Draw close to them.

Equip believers in Syria and Turkey to show the love of Jesus to their neighbors by helping in tangible ways and sharing the hope of the Gospel.

Inspire generosity in the hearts of people in the United States and across the world, prompting individuals to give the resources and money needed to help communities rebuild.

Empower the Church in America to show radical love for our immediate neighbors who are grieving the loss of life, beauty, and peace in Syria and Turkey.

Let us not turn away, but help us be your hands and feet to love those who are suffering and bear witness to your presence with them.

God, hear our prayer.

Amen.

(World Relief Chicagoland- worldrelief.org)

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

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An Evening with Friends at ACPJ



ACPJ Membership Mtg

Pax Christi members attended the 2023 annual [Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice \(ACPJ\)](#) Potluck and business meeting. After enjoying a wonderful meal together, Dr. Donnal Walter, President of ACPJ, awarded the Peace Activist for 2023 award to Tanya Holifield for her incredible work through the years on the 7th Street Mural Project. The award for Peace Group of the year was given to Bob Estes and PeaceWeek. This group works



Tanya Holifield

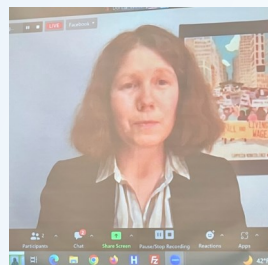
tirelessly each year coordinating the many activities that make up Peace Week in September.

The keynote speaker was Rivera Sun, long-time peace activist and executive director of Campaign Nonviolence. Rivera



Peace Week

presented a virtual talk on the different activities that Campaign Nonviolence organizes across the country to support peace and social justice during Peace Week each year.



Rivera Sun-CN

PCLR FOOD PANTRY JANUARY 2023



Gary and Friends

Settled Souls has begun settling previously unsheltered folks into housing after a short break and Pax Christi LR assists them by providing a food box for each recipient.

On January 19, the CTK Settled Souls team including Mike Bernardo, Mike Miskin and Lee Bass helped move Gary into his new home at Buffington Towers. According to Mike Bernardo, Gary was inspirational during a long talk they had together after the move. Gary has a bad hip but still walks (with cane) 10 miles around LR each day and does 25 pushups.



Welcome home

On January 30, the CTK Settled Souls team moved furnishings into a duplex that was soon to be occupied by a new recipient. Robert Hart, Steve Hoffman, Leslie Bertasi, Raymond Bertasi and Sherry Simon helped with the move and provided staples and fresh foods for the home.



Fun Move!

By wisdom a house is built, by understanding it is established; And by knowledge its rooms are filled with every precious and pleasing possession.

Proverbs 24: 3-4

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PCLR Honored at Heal a Heart Gala with Heartbeat Award



Roz accepts Heartbeat Award

On Thursday, February 16, Roz and Tim Pruitt, Pax Christi LR board members, and Pax Christi chaplain, Fr. Warren Harvey, attended the **18th Annual Heal a Heart Black Tie Gala** to accept the Heartbeat Award from the [Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits](#) (CHHS). The gala highlighted “Healthy Hearts, Healthy Communities” and proceeds from the event went to benefit survivors of violence and chronic illness.

For the past two years, Pax Christi Little Rock has donated funds raised at the **Pilgrimage for Peace** walk and remembrance service to CHHS. The Heartbeat Award was given in recognition of this ongoing support. CHHS will continue to be the recipient of funds raised at the **9th Annual Pilgrimage for Peace** scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 2:00 pm CST.



Roz and Fr. Harvey



Heal a Heart Gala

Pax Christi LR Offers Catechesis on Catholic Social Teaching for CYM at St. Theresa's Catholic School

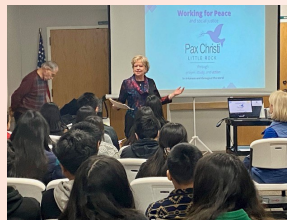


St. Theresa's CYM

Fr. Jaime Nieto invited Pax Christi Little Rock representatives to share information about Pax Christi with STS Catholic Youth Ministry students. There were over 50 teens in attendance ranging from the ages of 13 to 18-years-old. In addition to sharing about the organization, the speakers provided information and promoted discussion on Catholic Social Teaching, with particular emphasis on the principle of Human Dignity and Respect.



Mary Hunt-PCLR



Sherry Simon-CST

Speakers included Sr. Iliana Aponte, Mary Hunt, George Simon, and Sherry Simon. After the lecture and a short video on CST-Human Dignity, students broke into small groups to discuss the concept of all humans being made in the image of God and thus deserving of dignity and respect by others no matter their differences.



George Simon-prayer

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Join us at
Heifer International
1 World Avenue*
Little Rock
at 2:00pm

For a walk through the
River Market across the
Junction Bridge to the

Beacon of Peace & Hope
120 Riverfront Drive*
North Little Rock

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

*Parking available

9th ANNUAL

PILGRIMAGE For PEACE

Sunday, April 16, 2023



www.pilgrimageforpeace.com

www.facebook.com/PilgrimageforPeaceLR

"Peace begins with a smile..."

MOTHER TERESA



It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. -Eleanor Roosevelt

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PCLR Board Members Attend AR Hunger Relief Alliance Volunteer Reception



Jan Pipkin and Lee Bass, board members with Pax Christi Little Rock, attended a volunteer reception for [Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance \(AHRA\)](#) on Thursday, February 16 with the goal of obtaining more information on the different programs geared towards feeding the hungry in Arkansas.

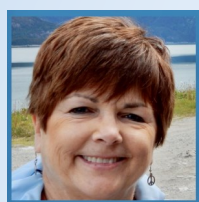
AHRA coordinates six main programs:

- “Build a Forest Garden”- October
- Plant Sweet Potatoes - May
- Watermelon Crawl - August
- SNAP Outreach- anytime
- Call Center Volunteer -anytime
- Cooking Matters - anytime



Lee Bass

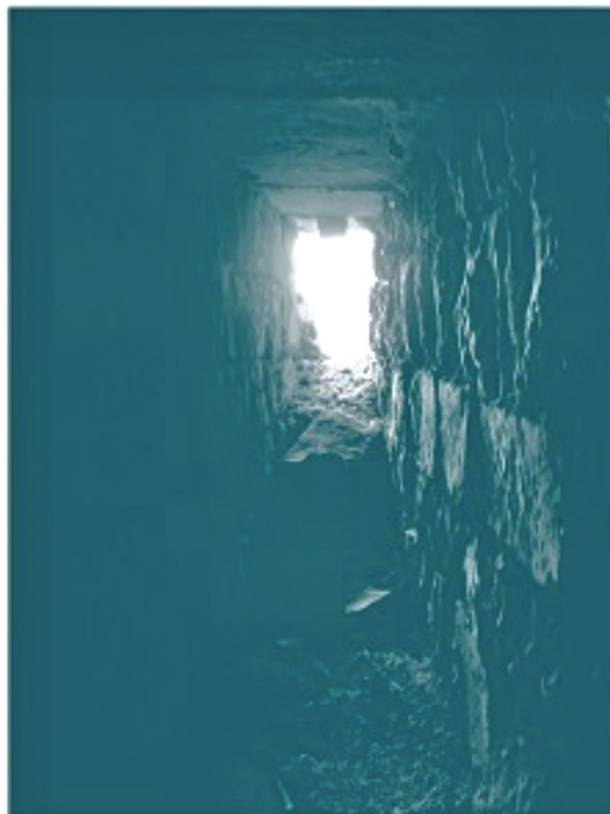
Lee and Jan are coordinators for the PCLR food pantry team. Although they continue to assist Settled Souls with providing food for all newly sheltered recipients, the pace of resettlement has slowed significantly in recent months. Neither of these two folks like to sit still and are always thinking of new ways to help others. So, Jan and Lee will present their findings at the next Pax Christi Little Rock board meeting in March and decisions will be made regarding PCLR involvement with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance.



Jan Pipkin

PCUSA Lenten Booklets Available Now

~Reflections for Lent 2023~



by Michael and Charlene Howard

*with Sr. Peggy Boehm, PBVM | Kathy O'Leary | Pearllette Springer, Ph.D.
Judith Kelly | Johnny Zokavitch | Mary Hanna
Sr. Jane Morrissey, SSJ | Sr. Annette McDermott, SSJ*

published by Pax Christi USA

If you would like to order a Pax Christi USA Lenten reflection booklet, go to paxchristi.3dcartstores.com. Booklets are on sale now for \$4.00. Charlene is the National Council Chair of PCUSA and Michael is the founder of Eat the Scroll Ministries. Reflections each Sunday include six African American Catholics on the path to sainthood.

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Unless You Turn . . .

Sherry Simon



At that time, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18: 1-3

I have had this picture sitting in my office for many years. It illustrates a sculpture exhibited at the Burning Man festival in Nevada in 2015, created by the Ukrainian artist, Alexander Milov. He entitled his masterpiece "Love."

I've stared at the picture of this sculpture for hours trying to understand how best to reach not only the children that live inside of others (in therapy) but also reach the child that lives inside of me.

Over the almost 65 years of my life, I have of necessity built up defenses so that I can function adequately in this world. It's what we all do—learn to act like a grownup—a good grownup. And of course, we must grow up in order to make a living, raise a family, pay our taxes, and all of the other duties that come with living in civilized society. It's not a bad thing!

But the drawback is that these defenses cover up the most vulnerable, trusting, innocent part of us. I guess in some ways we are trying to protect that inner child. However, if we are to believe scripture, this inner child is the part of us that is

experientially connected to God. Of course, it's always in there, just buried (like that pearl in the field we read about in scripture). I believe this because it is when I "become like a child" that I feel connected to something much bigger than myself. My connection comes in some large part from doing that thing that I loved to do from early in my childhood. Besides loving to read (especially fairy tales) from the age of 4, I began to write in my first "diary" at the age of 8. Even then, I wondered where all of those written thoughts were being directed. But it was in that writing that I found the freedom to be myself. And it was in the channel of that writing that God spoke to me.

So now, I've raised my children, retired from my life's work, and carved out a little space in this outer world. I no longer have to compete for money or position in order to best care for of my family. I find myself with the luxury of going inward in this second half of life and trying to re-connect with that child that reportedly holds the keys to heaven. So I write. And I am finding a freedom in the writing that is helping me change my perspective on the world. I'm somehow less likely to feel overly responsible for "making things happen" or making people happy.

It's hard to break through the shields that I've spent years building around myself to stay safe in this world. This external protection, or persona, often hides my authentic self (at least the parts that I don't want to be seen by others) because as I grew up I always wanted to be accepted and not seen as different or flawed. I simply wanted to fit in.

For me, the sculpture shown above beautifully depicts the terrible pitfalls inherent

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in this human condition we all experience. These two adults have had a disagreement. Perhaps they are angry with one another. Whatever the case, they are no longer connected and, most likely because of their pride, they are no longer even talking. No doubt, their egos have been wounded and their pride has led them to place blame on the other. They are so well defended, as illustrated by the wire defining their bodies and their obstinate yet depressed stance, that it would be almost impossible to break through these barriers to make a connection. Too much pain is present.

Where does this pain come from? Even though we generally want to believe that others are to blame for our hurt, it usually comes from a sense of inadequacy within ourselves and belief that we are not loved or lovable. We want others to prove to us that we are good and wonderful and perfect. That is clearly an unrealistic expectation. Of course, it's easier to be angry than devastated, so we take out our pain on the people we love most. You can see how this would lead to a vicious circle of blame, anger, and the building of more and more defenses. The paradox is that



this reaction only serves to alienate us from our truest nature. And so we further alienate ourselves from God.

So what is the solution to this impasse that occurs so often, not only in human relationships, but in our relationship with God? The sculpture suggests that the answer lies in finding the child inside of ourselves in order to get past all of the built up rules, walls, and expectations that keep us separate from others. What is inherent in small children that makes them automatically fit not only for their part in a healthy relationship but for the king-

dom of God?

The one thing I can say with certainty on that score is that little children know that they are small and that they must trust something much bigger



than themselves if they are going to be ok. I know this because I used to think that to "make it in this world" I needed to do BIG things. I was filled with anxiety as it never seemed I could do enough to "be enough." It was through the experience of writing freely, without censor, that I began to discover the beauty and even power inherent in doing "small things" and trusting that simply being present and doing one thing would be enough. I learned that I could be imperfect and incomplete and God would take care of the rest of it.

Another beautiful thing about children before they grow up too much in this difficult world is that in their first days and weeks they have faith. If you have ever looked into the eyes of an infant, you see that intrinsic trust that everything is going to be ok. They do not have to be in control because they know that someone else is in control. They have no ability to be in any space other than the current moment. They have no thoughts of future or past, only now. And from this space, they have access to all of the love in the universe. You can see it coming through their eyes.

For those of you also entering the second half of life, I hope you find a path to that space and time where you can trust and have the faith of a child. This world tends to damage these child-like qualities, but some access to them is truly a key to a better relationship with others and with God. So write, sing, dance, play, hug a dog, or do anything each day that brought you joy as a child. Because, as Christ tells us, it is in that child-like perspective that you will find the peace that comes with the connection, affirmation, and love that abounds in the Kingdom.