

PEACE OFFERINGS

WHAT IS PAX CHRISTI?

Refresh, Reflect and Renew: Pax Christi Little Rock Discerns 2023 Mission

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

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PCLR Spiritual Retreat

On Saturday, January 21, Pax Christi Little Rock board members met for an all-day spiritual retreat at Fitzgerald Hall followed by mass in the chapel. The retreat was entitled Refresh, Reflect and Renew. Last year was a productive year, with members involving themselves in 22 different missions, projects and activities including sponsorship of an Afghan family, backpack filled with school supplies program, Pilgrimage for Peace, food pantry in conjunction with Settled Souls, Speaker Series, Divine Mercy Medical Clinic volunteers, PCUSA 50th Anniversary Conference attendance, hosting of PCUSA staff and council for 6 days in Little Rock, and meetings conducted as part of the Synod process with formal report provided to the diocese and the Vatican. Given the intensity and time requirements of these projects, many members were in need of rest and a space to contemplate new missions for 2023.



Pray, Study, Act



Walk Humbly

Sr. Iliana opened

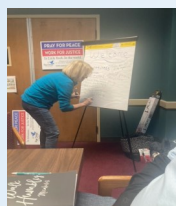


Fr. Harvey

the retreat with prayer and song. George Simon and Mary Hunt gave an excellent introduction on their understanding of the peace of Christ. Throughout the retreat, folks shared stories of what Pax Christi (the peace of Christ) meant to each of them. There was discussion around the importance of developing the peace of Christ in self before trying to share with others. Board members shared their vision of Pax Christi 2023 and many new organizational ideas were developed, particularly around the Speaker Series. Perhaps most importantly, there was much gratitude expressed around the love and generosity found within Pax Christi Little Rock.



Pax Christi Mass



What Is Pax Christi?

Lauren Bailey and Michelle Sherman, Pax Christi USA staff, joined the group in a zoom meeting to share information on the many different pro-

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jects that PCUSA is putting forward in 2023. There was discussion around possible involvement with some of these national projects on a local level.

To close out the retreat, Father Warren Harvey, PCLR Chaplain and Deacon Mark Rios presided over mass in the Fitzgerald Hall chapel. Fr. Harvey began this intimate gathering by handing out an envelope to all members of Pax Christi. On the outside of the envelope were the words, "This is Pax Christi." Inside the envelope were packages of yeast. In his homily, Fr. Harvey pointed out that no one can bring complete peace to this world. But he noted that Pax Christi LR members do small things with great love that make a difference, like yeast grows bread over time.

PAX CHRISTI IS...



George Simon

Dr. George Simon is a clinical psychologist, author and member of the Pax Christi Little Rock board. When asked what Pax Christi means to him, he responded: "I think I'm only beginning to understand the peace that Jesus said he enjoyed and wanted us to enjoy, too. I know his words about this mean much more than the wishing of peace that his and other cultures offer so liberally in casual greetings.

Pax Christi for me is not about all the things we've been inspired to do. It's about the model of prayer, study, and action - a model I fell in love with when I came to see it not as a mere method for championing social justice but as a more peaceful way of operating in a world already suffering too much and too long under the weight of self-righteous conflict. When I am at peace because I'm truly letting go and fully trusting and letting God, I connect with

others in more peaceful and loving ways and that always creates something beautiful. I feel like a peace partner with God. And similarly, when I immerse myself in the loving endeavors we undertake and bear witness to the flow of loving energy between us all, I feel more connected to the Source, and that brings me an incredible peace.

In short, Pax Christi means being the peace I hope to share and hopefully, through the mindful actions we take, restoring some of the peace that the injustices of this world constantly strips away from all of us."



Sr. Iliana Aponte

Sr. Iliana Aponte, DC is a Daughter of Charity and Parish Outreach Liaison for Catholic Charities of Arkansas as well as a Pax Christi board member. She described what Pax Christi means to her: "The first words that come to my mind when I think of Pax Christi are: "Peace be with you." After the resurrection, Jesus appeared many times to the disciples and to the women. He introduced himself by saying, "Peace be with you." To me, Pax Christi means that as a Human Being, Child of God, Daughter of Charity, it is very important to bring peace to others. But how do I bring peace to others when my heart sometimes is upset, distracted, or confused? Here is the key. These upset moments are when Jesus shows me that I am human, and I need to be humble to believe more in him and to be confident with him. Maybe I was a little distant from him and I needed to be closer to him in my prayer, in my connection with people. I ask the Lord to help me be a channel of his peace."

In sending his disciples forth on a mission, Jesus told them: "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you." Luke 10: 5-6

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February Speaker Series: Rev. Guillermo Campuzano from DePaul University to Speak on Immigration



Fr. "Memo" Campuzano

Fr. Guillermo "Memo" Campuzano, C.M., Vice President for Mission and Ministry at DePaul University since 2020, will give a virtual presentation on Global Immigration

on Thursday, February 16 at 6 pm in Fitzgerald Hall on the St. John's Catholic Center Campus.

Prior to his current tenure at DePaul, Fr. Campuzano was assigned as a representative for the Congregation of the Mission at the UN. While there, he directed global advocacy on behalf of the Vincentian mission. He was the creator and coordinator for the Vincentian International Network for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. He has also served as chair of the UN's Working Group to End Homelessness since 2017.

A DePaul alumnus, he previously held multiple positions there over eight years including director of the Office of Religious Diversity, university chaplain as well as adjunct professor in departments of Religious Studies, Catholic Studies, Modern Languages and the School for Public Service.

Born and raised in Columbia, Fr. Campuzano was ordained as a Catholic Vincentian priest in 1993. In 2018,

he was among the 30 global experts invited to Rome by the Dicastery of Consecrated Life in the Vatican to discuss religious life.

Global migration has been described as one of the new faces of poverty. UN statistics speak of hundreds of millions of people on the move. According to Fr. Campuzano, "At time, tens to hundreds of thousands find themselves directly exposed to open conflict or the effects of natural disasters in countries where they live and work... These vulnerable peoples are forced to travel along dangerous migratory routes, across land and sea, usually with few resources."

"The Catholic Church has synthesized the theological and pastoral tradition to articulate three basic principles on migration. These are an important piece of the Catholic Social Teaching:

- People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.
- A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control migration.
- A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

Migration has many causes including poverty, ecological devastation and violence. The greatest majority of immigrants are "economic refugees", people escaping from violence or from unsafe ecological conditions. Most are poor persons in search for opportunities to live a dignified life."

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PCLR Members Attend MLK Mass and Reception

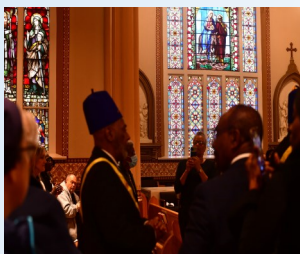


Bishop Taylor

Twelve Pax Christi Little Rock members attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass celebrated by Bishop Taylor at the Cathedral of St. Andrew on Saturday, January 14 at 4:30 pm. In his homily, Bishop Taylor urged all of us to put a “human face” on racism and “the injustices people suffer today—especially the racial disparities in every measure of wellbeing, which the Black Lives Matter movement emphasizes—we can enable the teachings of Jesus, and the teaching of Dr. King, to continue to make a difference today.” The Cathedral was filled with congregants, with members of the Order of



Martin Luther King, Jr



Processional

Peter Claver, the Diocesan Council of Black Catholics, Pax Christi Little Rock, and members of St. Bartholomew, St.



Tim Pruitt—MLK Mass

Augustine and St. Peter’s Catholic Churches. Following the mass, there was a dinner reception in McDonald Hall that was well-attended. This was the first time since the MLK Mass in 2020 that the dinner was held in the hall due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Pax Christi Little Rock was asked to set up an information table at the reception. Roz Pruitt set up the table and



Sandee at PCLR Table

Sandee Haslauer and Sr. Iliana Aponte provided brochures, t-shirts, peace pins, and general information about Pax Christi Little Rock to all interested parties. Pax Christi celebrates the life and legacy established by Dr. King. He is truly one of the great prophets of our time.

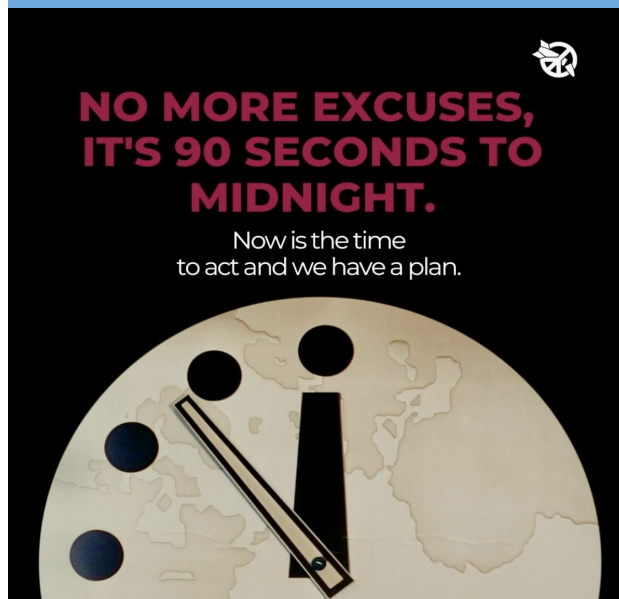


MLK Mass Reception

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’” Martin Luther King, Jr.

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DOOMSDAY CLOCK SET TO 90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT, HERE'S THE PLAN



The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist has reset the minute hand on the Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to midnight, “largely but not exclusively due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.” This year’s Clock announcement must not be followed by the usual hand wringing, resignation and excuses, but with urgent action to avoid nuclear war. ICAN has a roadmap for ridding the world of nuclear weapons in four steps: prohibition, stigmatization, negotiation, elimination.

The setting of the Clock to 90 seconds to midnight reflects the consensus that the Ukraine invasion has brought the world

closer to nuclear war than at any time since the 1980’s. The Doomsday clock has warned the public about how close we are to destroying our world with dangerous technologies of our own making since 1947, and it had most recently moved from two minutes to midnight to 100 seconds to midnight in 2020. In the light of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine under cover of threats to use nuclear weapons against anyone trying to intervene in 2022, this new time shows just how grave the danger we are facing is.

But the Dooms Day Clock should be more than just a measure of risk, it is a call to action. ICAN executive Director, Beatrice Fihn, has highlighted the upcoming G7 meeting in Hiroshima as the first available opportunity to discuss how such negotiations could take place, and the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a framework within which they could occur. “We have had enough of the Doomsday Clock warnings being followed by inaction. The leaders of the nuclear armed states must urgently negotiate nuclear disarmament, and the G7 meeting in Hiroshima in May 2023 is the perfect place to outline such a plan. The leaders of the G7 countries must now step up and seize the moment of their meeting in the first city to have been devastated by an atomic bomb at huge human cost to tell us how they will

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work with Russia, China and other nuclear armed states to end this grave threat to humanity.”

History demonstrates that reductions and elimination of different types of weapons has followed negotiations. In 2021, nuclear weapons became comprehensively illegal under international law through the entry into force of TPNW, and the treaty provides a verifiable pathway for nuclear-armed states to eliminate their arsenals. The framework is there. What is needed now is action.

The Plan: what needs to happen now to eliminate nuclear weapons

ICAN has a plan for ridding the world of nuclear weapons in four steps, which our 650 partner organizations, governments, cities, parliamentarians, trade unions, faith-based communities, scientists, and others work on every day:

- 1. Prohibition:** In 2021, nuclear weapons became comprehensively illegal under international law through the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Only two years later, 92 countries have signed the treaty and 68 have ratified it, and we are working to persuade the rest of the world to join them.
- 2. Stigmatization:** Following the prohibition, we are now developing a strong norm against nuclear weapons to make them as unacceptable as other banned weapons like land mines and cluster bombs. ICAN's work to delegitimize these weapons has enabled and encouraged recent high level statements condemning all nuclear threats

from TPNW state parties, the G20, President Xi of China, Chancellor Scholz of Germany and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg. What's needed now is for condemnation of threats to be followed by concrete steps to eliminate nuclear weapons.

- 3. Negotiation:** Nuclear-armed states and their allies need to get around the table to discuss how they will disarm, now. It has been done before. After the Cuban missile crisis and the close calls in the early 1980's, we saw an international treaty to stop proliferation and action to reduce nuclear arsenals, through agreements like the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties and unilateral disarmament measures by the US and Russia. Now we need to finish the job. The TPNW provides a framework for new negotiations and the 2023 G7 leaders summit in Hiroshima provides the opportunity to kickstart that process.

- 4. Elimination:** the final step is the elimination of nuclear arsenals. History demonstrates that reductions and elimination of different types of weapons has followed negotiations. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides a verifiable pathway for nuclear-armed states to eliminate their arsenals.

Composed and shared by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). For more information, go to www.icanw.org.

Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up and cause trouble, through which many may become defiled. Hebrews 12:14-15

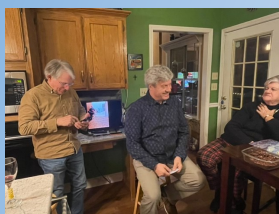
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Pax Christi Care Team Celebrates Year Sponsoring Afghan Family



PCLR Care Team

Jan and Tony Pipkin generously offered to host a party celebrating the year-long investment in sponsoring the Urguni family from Afghanistan. The Pax Christi Little Rock Care team worked hand-in-hand with the Christ the King logistical team (Betty Jo King, Melanie Riley, Angie Potts). All members of the sponsor team did their part in assuring the safety as well as the enculturation of this family of seven in Little Rock before their recent move to Muncie.



Telling Stories

Over the past year, the care team met many of the basic needs of the Urguni family. Members of the team taught them how to use modern appliances, took care of problems that arose with the structure of their home, speak some basic English, helped apply for and obtain a job, get medical needs met, enjoy some recreational activities, and provided transportation to appointments, school, and work as needed. Beautiful people working hard in the service of others.



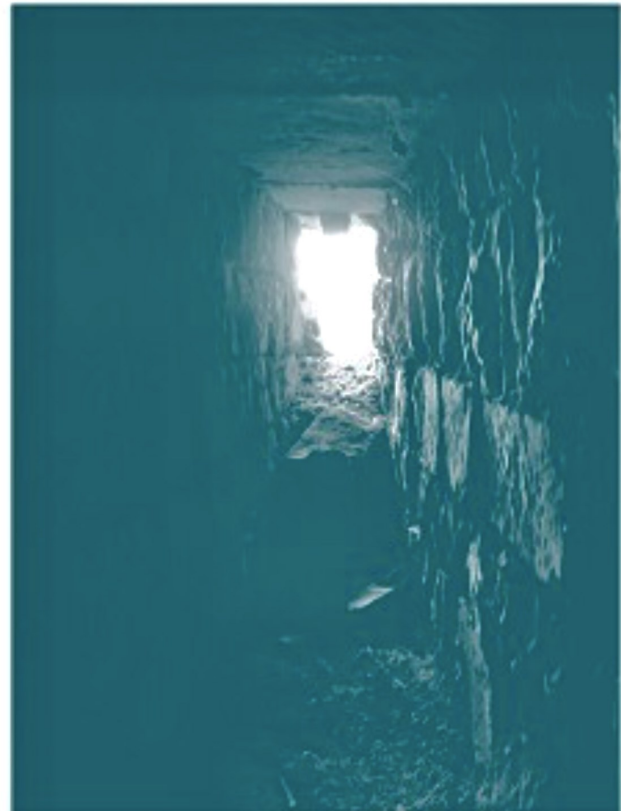
Sharing Memories



Watching Football!

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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SWORN TO PROTECT LIFE AND TO SERVE

GEORGE SIMON



Many of us have heard the news stories about the tragic death of Tyre Nichols at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve him in Memphis, TN. But as a forensic psychologist and lecturer who has investigated many similar cases, and as someone who worked closely with law enforcement and the criminal justice system for several years, I'm deeply troubled not only by the event itself but also by the nature of the response to it.

What happened in Memphis sadly happens more than we know or care to believe. Not every such event rises to the level that makes headlines. And not every event gets exposed or recorded somehow. The devaluing of human life is so widespread and egregious that we barely notice how barbaric our society has become unless something more shocking than the last event captures our attention. And because barbarity seems to be the new norm, even the outrage we should rightfully experience and express (peacefully, of course, but nonetheless staunchly), is sadly becoming increasingly muted.

Sanctity of life issues lie at the core of our Church's social justice teaching. But I can't help but be dismayed that the same passion that some of my brothers and sisters put into visible demonstrations and marches against abortion seems conspicuous by its absence when events such as the one in Memphis happen. What's worse,

instead of mass mobilization and pressure for change, I hear many engage in the usual apologetics, rationalizing that there's no comparison to the abortion issue, it's only a few "bad apples," etc., you know, all that stuff.

We have a very serious problem with callousness, heartlessness, and utter disregard for the value of human life in our world. And we're all more guilty than we care to admit. From the hateful things couples say and do to each other and their children every day, to the divisive rhetoric and incivility that characterize our political debates, to the miserable ways we treat the chronically mentally ill, the elderly, the disabled, etc.—disrespect for life is everywhere. Integrity and nobility of character has become the rarest of commodities in a materially rich, indulgent, and entitled culture. And what's worse is that some of the more despicable characters among us are routinely handed the reins of power and influence over us.

I know we can't solve every problem by merely calling it out. And we certainly can't confront every evil meaningfully with a demonstration of some sort. But some egregiously inhumane actions seem to demand that faithful Catholics, who supposedly are at the forefront of the reverence for life issue, take a more striking and visible stand when such things come to light.

Memphis is the city where Dr. Martin Luther King forfeited his life. He knew his life was in danger, but he put the dignity and welfare of sanitation workers ahead of his own personal

safety. He understood that it was a value of life issue. Some of us Pax Christi members will be networking with some folks in Memphis. And I



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pray that a mass speaking of truth to power takes place there. And I would be proud to march to solidarity. Enough is enough! As you can tell, I'm passionate about this. And that's because my experience has taught me that it's not just a few bad apples; it's not a lack of training; it's not just about fear for personal safety on the job; and, as the Memphis episode demonstrates, it's more than just about race, which it sadly sometimes is. What it's ultimately all about is a callous and sometimes heartless culture, and attitudes towards life so toxic and egregious but that have become so pervasive and normalized that we've almost quit expecting better—even from those we have a right to hold to a much higher standard. And the fact that everyone we entrust with power can't be trusted to wield it humanely is worth calling out visibly and strongly.

In searching my own conscious, I came to realize that electing folks we think will appoint judges and enact laws to make others act in accord with the values we profess to hold demands much less of us in the way of personal sacrifice than devoting our time and energy and putting our reputations and maybe even our lives on the line for the sake of all life and for true and more universal justice. And I've also come to realize that if we don't do something—something just as dramatic as the injustice that goes on every day, and in so many ways and places but doesn't necessarily ome to light, get caught on camera, or make headlines—then our inaction makes us complicit. It seems high time to take the respect for life issue more seriously and less narrow-mindedly, and with less self-righteousness and more self-sacrifice.

Some of us will be actively looking into the happenings in Memphis and any planned social justice activity being planned there. And I pray that our Church and other religious leaders play the active role they don't hesitate to play in other dignity of life campaigns.

"I think the difference between me and some people is that I'm content to do my little bit. Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we'd have a tremendous light."

Thea was born in Mississippi and attended a school run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA). At nine years old she converted to Catholicism and six years later became the first Black sister in the community.

The Second Vatican Council's liturgical renewal inspired Thea to bring her spiritual heritage into her Catholic faith. She became a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer who shared the joy of the Gospel and her rich cultural heritage throughout the nation. One of her most famous speeches was to the USCCB in 1989 on being Black and Catholic. She died at the age of 52 of breast cancer. She was declared a Servant of God in 2018.



Sister Thea's album, *Songs of My People*, was recorded in 1988. Click the music notes to listen on YouTube.



SISTER THEA BOWMAN

SINGER, SISTER, SPEAKER

December 29, 1937 - March 30, 1991

A documentary was released in 2022 called, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood." You can watch the one-hour documentary by clicking the link below.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sister Thea was the daughter of a doctor and a teacher. She was the granddaughter of Enslaved People. Their legacy gave her strength throughout her life.

© Sister Kate McFall, DC @kmcfa

