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- Mary Hunt (President)
- Jan Pipkin (VP-Community Relations)
- Tim Pruitt (VP-Operations)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Lee Bass (Chairperson)
- Al Adams
- Margaret Douglas
- Rosalyn Pruitt
- Father Warren Harvey (Chaplain)

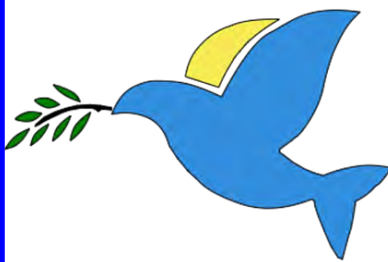
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Dr. Cheryl Simon

**Sherry
founded
Pax Christi
Little Rock
in 2016**



Pax Christi
LITTLE ROCK

June 30, 2024
Volume 8 Issue 2
Quarterly News-
letter

Peace Offerings

2024 Speaker Series for May and June

Gun Violence In America

Helping the Victims



On Thursday May 16 Mr Darlynton Adegor, the Victim Services Program Manager for the Little Rock-based Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits (CHHS) , presented an overview of the Center's

outreach healing program for victims of gun violence in Arkansas. The Victim Services Program of the CHHS provides comprehensive victim's services, including court advocacy, crisis counseling, emergency room assistance, and support groups to underserved victims of crimes in Arkansas, Faulkner, Jefferson, Pulaski, and Saline Counties. Clients include non-English speaking victims of child abuse, general assault victims, homicide victims' survivors, domestic violence victims , senior 65 and older, and persons with disabilities The Victim Services Program was designed to assist crime victims and their affected families to improve the quality of victim's services delivery in high-crime, urban and rural areas in Arkansas.

Beating Guns into Plowshares

On Thursday June 20 PCLR was privileged to view a webinar from Pax Christi USA featuring **Mr. Shane Claiborne**, a prominent preacher, activist, and best-selling author! Shane described his many efforts in recent years to curb gun violence by promoting a reduction in firearms, getting guns off the streets. The data are striking :

- While only 5% of the world's population, Americans in the US own almost one-half the world's guns; there are more guns than people in the US
- America also has the world's most gun deaths—including homicide, suicide, and accidental gun deaths—at 105 per day or about 38,000 per year
- More Americans have died from guns in the US in the last fifty years than in all the wars in American history
- States with more guns have greater violence; states with greater gun controls have less violence
- A majority of Americans favor one or more measures to control access to guns yet Congress fails to act due to the inordinate power of the gun lobby

Shane's message to everyone: ***If Americans felt as strongly about the Sermon on the Mount as the Second Amendment and viewed reduction in gun violence an essential part of the pro-life agenda, we could make the world a safer place for all of us.***



Shane has co-authored a book with Michael Martin detailing the frightening situation with guns in America entitled *Beating Guns-Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence*.

Third Speaker in Series on Human Trafficking

On April 18 Pax Christi Little Rock heard from a local FBI agent responsible for fighting human trafficking in Arkansas. Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person. Anyone can be the victim of human trafficking, and it can occur in any U.S. community—cities, suburbs, and even rural areas. Here in the United States, both U.S. residents and foreign nationals are being bought and sold like modern-day slaves. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to exploit victims. Victims are forced to work as prostitutes or take jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay. Under the human trafficking program, the FBI investigates sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and domestic servitude. While FBI agents rely heavily on referrals from law enforcement agencies and non-government organizations, citizens can also help by calling the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.**



New Board Member

Pax Christi Little Rock is excited that **Margaret Douglas** has agreed to join our Board of Directors! Margaret, a member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, brings us her experience at the Helping Hand of Greater Little Rock as well as many other charities organizations. She said that she is honored to become a Board member and is ready and available to get started helping Pax Christi wherever she is needed! **Welcome Margaret!**

On the Horizon

MOMS 
DEMAND
ACTION

FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

How to End Gun Violence in America

For the 3rd session in our 3-part study of gun violence prevention, we are please to host **Anna Morshedi** of **Moms Demand Action of Greater Little Rock!** She will present what MOMS is doing to get the guns laws in our country changed. All are invited to engage in this discussion on how we can help build better gun sense in America!

When: Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Where: Fitzgerald Hall on the Catholic Diocese campus at 2500 N Tyler St, Little Rock, AR

Also through Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89769459033>

Mission to the Southern Border in El Paso

Our mission to El Paso, Texas, originally scheduled June, has been postponed until the fall. A date in October is still pending. This mission trip is a short-term immersion experience provided by The Encuentro Project in El Paso (encuentroproject.org). The Encuentro Project is associated with Sacred Heart Church, an organization close to the hearts of those who participated in our 2023 mission to El Paso. This year's mission experience includes the opportunity to:

- *Encounter and minister to vulnerable immigrant persons in shelters, guest houses , and parishes*
- *Visit with persons and organizations serving in the El Paso and Ciudad Juarez region in Mexico*
- *Participate in workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and migrant/border realities*
 - *Participate in personal and group reflection*

There are openings available. Please consider participating in this amazing experience to discover the realities of our immigration crisis. Contact Sandee Haslauer for more information (sandee.haslauer@gmail.com) .

I was a stranger and you welcomed me

From the Food Pantry Mission

Lorien Trapani, the head of Settled Souls, writes:

Pax Christi helped 3 people in May/June and 3 more are on the list for remainder of June and early July. So many of our recipients live miles away from a grocery store and they ride the bus. Buying food is not only expensive but a time consuming endeavor that has to be fit into work schedules. It's even harder for moms and kids. When Settled Souls delivers furniture and household goods, the recipients can begin to truly function in their new home. When we add the wonderful bonus of fresh and nourishing food from Pax Christi, these folks can immediately enjoy a home cooked meal in their own home. Even if it's just a fried egg sandwich, eggs and fresh bread are a luxury many of these people have gone without for years.

From the Backpack Project

We have three schools that we will provide school supplies for the year: Washington Elementary, North Little Rock Catholic Academy and St. Theresa's Catholic School. NLRCA and St. Theresa will have bulk supplies and Washington will have 332 backpacks filled with supplies.

Set up and packing will take place at Fitzgerald Hall on August 7 & 8. The supplies will be delivered to the schools on August 9.

Donations to offset the cost of school supplies are most welcome! *(Please see our contact information on page 1.)*

Jan Pipkin

Pilgrimage for Peace 2024



Pax Christi Little Rock was honored to host the 10th **Pilgrimage for Peace** during the afternoon of Sunday, April 14th. Peacemakers from many inter-faith and community organizations gathered in the circle outside Heifer International, walked pass the Clinton Presidential Library, through the River Market, then across the Junction Bridge to the Beacon of Peace and Hope. At the Beacon, over 100 peacemakers gathered for a truly touch-

ing and inspiring Remembrance Service to “mourn the violence committed in our community, nation, and world.” The inter-faith service began with Judge Griffin’s inspiring invocation and Little Rock Police Chief, Heath Helton’s encouraging key note address. Community leaders then offered prayers, poems, and personal reflections alternating with the reading of 99 names of homicide victims in central Arkansas.



PCLR Donation to Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits

Many local organizations generously donated funds for this year's Pilgrimage for Peace, which allowed Pax Christi to award \$1000 to the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits! These funds will be used in CHHS's Victims Services Program.

News from Pax Christi USA (PCUSA)

- On June 11, the Dorothy Day Guild, the official body charged with promoting the canonization of Dorothy Day, gave its first Peacemaker award to Pax Christi USA, in acknowledgement of Pax Christi USA's commitment to Gospel nonviolence and its exemplification of Day's vision and legacy.
- For more than 25 years Pax Christi USA has been committed to transforming itself into an anti-racism multicultural Catholic movement for peace with justice. PCUSA is beginning a process to recruit and train a new team for our **Anti-Racism Initiative**. If you think God is calling you to join the team check out <https://paxchristiusa.org/2024/06/03/join-pax-christi-usas-new-anti-racism-team/>.

Sherry Simon, founder of PCLR, is now the Vice-Chair of the PCUSA National Council. She continues to support PCLR and share news of interest to Arkansas peacemakers. We offer Sherry our congratulations, our gratitude for her service, our support in her efforts, and our continued prayers.



Sr. Iliana and PCLR amigos on mission in El Paso June 2023

As many know, PCLR Board member, Sr. Iliana Aponte, was transferred to Chicago with the Daughters of Charity last fall. She has stayed on the Board these past months but is now immersed in her work at Bethany House of Hospitality which offers housing and support services to young immigrant women as they journey to independence. She has decided leave the Board to devote her time and talents there where she is needed most.

Sr. Iliana's value to PCLR cannot be understated! She has a genuine passion for helping the poor and underserved in our community. Sr Iliana has a wealth of contacts and provided exceptional presenters for our Speaker Series. Her incredible connections in El Paso were instrumental to our successful mission last summer. Sister's enthusiasm and energy is contagious! Her wise advice will be missed from our Board - but she will never be missed from our hearts!

Sr Iliana will continue to be a Pax Christi Little Rock member and will leave the door open to participate in future missions and help with our Speaker Series. Please pray for Sister and the Bethany House residents in Chicago!

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

From Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Pax Christi Little Rock Membership Application



Pax Christi Little Rock (PCLR) 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 _____

Please mail your PCLR membership application to

Mary Hunt, 6 Valley Forge Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212

Our only requirement for membership is that you pray for peace and commit to nonviolent solutions to conflict. We also invite you to join in our events with fellow peacemakers!

Please visit www.facebook.com/paxchristilittlerock for the latest updates.

In lieu of membership fees, we welcome donations, all of which go to support our many outreach programs. You may send your donations (checks made to Pax Christi Little Rock) to

Mary or go to paxchristilittlerock.org and press the **DONATE** button. Questions and suggestions may be sent to paxchristilr@gmail.com

Welcome to PCLR membership! May the peace of Christ be with you!