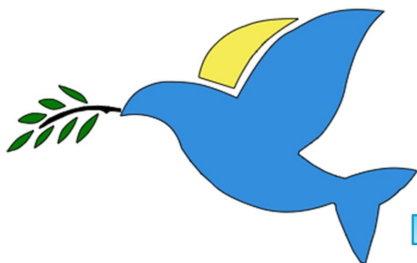


Board Members

- Sherry and George Simon (Co-President)
- Jan Pipkin (VP-Community Relations)
- Tim Pruitt (VP-Operations)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Janie Kelley (Treasurer)
- Al Adams
- Darlynton Adegor
- Margaret Douglas
- Mary Hunt
- Rosalyn Pruitt
- Father Warren Harvey (Chaplain)

Contact Information

- Website:
www.paxchristilittlerock.org
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/paxchristilittlerock>
- Address: PO Box 241074
Little Rock, AR 72223
- Phone: (501) 258-8653
- Email: paxchristilr@gmail.com



Pax Christi
LITTLE ROCK
Peace Offerings

April 2026

Quarterly Newsletter Volume 10 Issue 1

Since there was no 4th quarter newsletter for 2025, this edition will include PCLR activities for October 2025 through March 2026

2025 Speaker Series for October and November

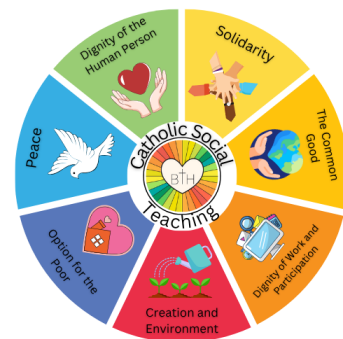
The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Father Patrick Friend



On Thursday October 16 at 6:30 pm on the St John Diocesan Campus Father Patrick Friend, Chaplain and faculty member at Catholic High School for Boys in Little Rock, presented Part 1 of an overview of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). He returned on Thursday November 20 for Part 2. In these two presentations Father Friend overviewed the seven themes of CST, giving the friends of Pax Christi Little Rock (PCLR) a glimpse into the full richness of our Church's teaching on social justice.

While much of this teaching is found in the Catechism, much more of it is embedded in encyclicals and letters coming from Church leaders over the years, with Pope Leo XIII being one of the major historical voices. Father Friend referenced then Pope Francis in his recent exhortation reiterating his call for a preferential option for the poor with its model being a field hospital. The two timely presentations helped PCLR keep its proper focus as it stands each week in vigil and protest in Little Rock calling for our government leaders to work for peace through justice.



Speaker Series for February 2026: **Denise Chai**



On February 26, Denise Chai, president of the St. Francis House board of directors, was the featured speaker at the Pax Christi Little Rock Speakers Series. She provided a history of St. Francis House and discussed community services including assistance for those who are experiencing emergency situations created by loss of employment, no income, low or fixed income, chronic or sudden illness, lack of health insurance and the high cost of medicine and utilities. St. Francis House provides transitional housing for homeless Veterans with difficulties re-entering society due to post-traumatic stress syndrome or substance abuse or other problems.

Thirty people attended the presentation and, following the formal program, there was a great discussion about St. Francis House and its services. Denise and Margaret Douglas, Executive Director of The Helping Hand (and Pax Christi Little Rock board member), compared notes and found many similarities between their programs.

Speaker Series for March 2026: **De Matt Glover and Ms Kristy Dunn**

The March Pax Christi Little Rock Speaker Series was held on March 26 at 6:30 pm in Fitzgerald Hall on the St. John's Catholic Campus. It was the first program of a 3-part series on Immigration. Deacon Matt Glover (Chancellor and canonical lawyer for the Diocese of Little Rock) and Catholic school principal Kristy Dunn presented "Accompanying the Stranger: Catholic Mission and Immigration in Arkansas." There were 26 people attending this in-person gathering and 4 who joined via zoom. Deacon Glover provided information on current immigration laws and how they affect immigrants in this state, including priests who are assigned from other countries. Ms. Dunn told personal stories of how current laws and means of enforcement affect children and families at her school, St. Theresa's. Participants in the seminar were very engaged and asked thought provoking questions following the presentation.



Speaker Series for April 2026: **Eric Brown**



Eric Brown, Executive Director of Seis Puentes (Six Bridges), provided a captivating overview of the structure and mission of this organization that seeks to build a bridge between Latino communities and general life in Arkansas through education, information, and resources. His presentation, entitled “Building Bridges: Community, Dignity, and Belonging at Seis Puentes,” revealed the important work that he and his staff do to ensure that every individual is treated with dignity, equipped with tools for success, and empowered to thrive.

Twenty-two people attended this second presentation in a three-part series on immigration in Arkansas. Perhaps most inspirational were the stories that Mr. Brown shared about his own experiences as a first-generation American citizen born of a mother who came to the United States from Mexico. Mr. Brown extolled the importance of education as he is about to complete a Masters degree in public service from the Clinton School of Public Service. His passion for his work and the impact he has on the Latino community in Central Arkansas was apparent as he talked about his experiences and how important it is for immigrants to this country to learn how to assimilate into certain aspects of the culture to assure their success.

Upcoming Speaker Series for May 2026: **Mireya Reith, ED of Arkansas United**

In the third of our three-part series on Immigration in Arkansas, Mireya Reith, founding Executive Director of the non-profit Arkansas United, will share information and mission of Arkansas United, an organization that works to empower immigrants through advocacy and services. Located in Fayetteville, Arkansas United serves 18 communities and boasts a network of over 200 immigrant organizers throughout the state. Request for services has increased significantly following recent changes in ICE deportation policy.

Ms. Reith received her Master’s in International Affairs from Columbia University and earned her BA in Political Science and Spanish from Williams College. She has received numerous awards and served on multiple prestigious boards, highlighting her focus on education and immigration reform. Her presentation will take place on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 in Fitzgerald Hall (2414 N. Tyler St.).



October 2025 Happenings



11th Annual Pilgrimage for Peace

Pax Christi Little Rock organized the 11th Annual Pilgrimage for Peace which took place on October 19, 2025. Each year, members of interfaith communities in Central Arkansas walk together as active peacemakers, remembering those who have died at the hands of violence, their loved ones, those who commit violence, those who live in fear, and those who work for peace. Following the walk from Heifer International across the

Junction Bridge to North Little Rock, a Remembrance Service was held in the Peace Garden that surrounds the Beacon for Peace and Hope. Participants shared prayers, songs, poems, and the names of all who were killed by the hand of violence in Pulaski County in 2025 were called aloud in remembrance. Funds were also raised for the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits, an organization that works closely with victims of violence in Arkansas.

2025 Legacy of Life Banquet Benefitting Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center (St Joseph's Helpers)

On Thursday October 23 the Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center (APRC) under the auspices of the St. Joseph Helpers sponsored the 2025 Legacy of Life Fundraising Banquet at the Venue at Westwind in North Little Rock. Pax Christi Little Rock sponsored a table and were graciously positioned near the stage. One of our attending members, our Chaplain. Father Warren Harvey, also serves as Chaplain for the APRC and led the closing prayer for the event. The guest speaker for the evening was Father Patrick Friend. Father Friend shared with the large crowd in attendance his own experience growing up in a loving supporting family and his own passion for creating a world in which, as the mission of the APRC describes it, "where there are protective fathers and loving

mothers, and that every child conceived is welcomed in the family, the fundamental unit of a healthy society." His spirited talk, while including today's myriad attacks on human dignity, focused primarily on the rising rates of abortion and the utmost importance of legal protection for every life, in every stage and circumstance.

The Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center has been supporting mothers and families since 1977, assisting thousands of clients throughout that time. They do not profit from any decision their clients make, and they serve everyone who comes through their doors regardless of age, race, gender, financial status, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation. Ways to donate to APRC can be found on their website: <https://www.pregnancylittlerock.com/>

November 2025 Peace Happenings

Our First North American Saint

On Thursday November 13, the feast day of Frances Cabrini, several PCLR members met just before the noon Mass at the chapel at St Vincent’s Hospital to pray a rosary for the immigrants in our country suffering under our government’s mass detention and mass deportation policy. Our own Father Warren Harvey, the chaplain at St Vincent’s, included in his liturgical prayers that day a call for an immigration reform policy that recognizes the God-given dignity of every person.

“Migrants and refugees remind the Church of her pilgrim dimension, perpetually journeying towards her final homeland, sustained by a hope that is a theological virtue.”

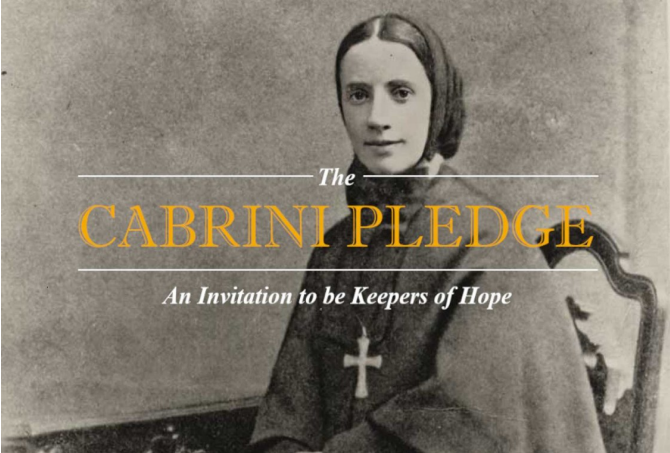
—Pope Leo XIV, Message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

PCLR Lends a Helping Hand

Every year at Thanksgiving Pax Christi Little Rock joins many other central Arkansas organizations in providing Thanksgiving meals to needy families. In 2025 it was decided that we would support one of our own, Margaret Douglas, the Director of Helping Hand of Greater Little Rock, in her annual tradition of providing Thanksgiving Boxes to her many clients. Over a three-day period we joined volunteers in sorting of can goods, assembling and filling boxes for the great Thanksgiving Give-Away. We helped with gift cards that folks could use to get their turkeys. The grand finale for the volunteers came on the Monday of Thanksgiving week when they began the day meeting and praying with folks coming to accept a smile and kind words and a full thanksgiving meal. Margaret had set a goal of 300 families to get help that day and true to her efforts and the support of many volunteers from across greater Little Rock, there were 330 boxes handed out. If you feel moved to volunteer to work at Helping Hand or to donate to its mission, please contact Margaret Douglas at 501-372-4388.



From the US Conference of Catholic Bishops website:



The history of the U.S. Catholic Church, like the history of the United States itself, is very much intertwined with the phenomenon of migration. The first American citizen to be canonized a saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, was the embodiment of this. An immigrant from Italy, she adopted this country as her own. While often facing discrimination and seemingly impossible odds, she never succumbed to hopelessness. With relentless faith, she accompanied her fellow immigrants and others living on the margins of society with a great missionary zeal.

As Catholics, we are called to recognize the face of Christ in each person we encounter, especially the poor and vulnerable. Jesus tells us in his own words: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel and the social teaching of the Church continually affirm the equal dignity of every person, irrespective of race, nationality, or immigration status.

The Cabrini Pledge is both a reminder of our immigrant heritage and a call to deeper engagement with our faith in response to current events. At a time when our culture is dominated by deep political divisions and reasonable disagreements about immigration policy, progress can feel impossible. But by witnessing to the God-given dignity of every person, including the migrants and refugees in our midst, we pave the way for an approach rooted in mercy, justice, and the common good. And together, like Mother Cabrini, we can be keepers of hope.

I PLEDGE:

- **To affirm, in word and deed, the inherent dignity of every person**, regardless of immigration status or country of origin, seeing each as a child of God before all else.
- **To engage with Scripture and the Church’s social teaching**, reflecting on the role of migration in salvation history, the history of the United States, and the history of my own family.
- **To listen and learn about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees**, including those in my community, with an open heart and mind.
- **To seek opportunities for encounter**, so as to grow in deeper understanding and communion that leads to an authentic solidarity with those in need.
- **To consider what it means to be a good neighbor** and how I am called to reflect the love and hope of Christ to others.
- **To encourage civic dialogue that places the human person and the sanctity of families at the center of policymaking**, especially toward the end of meaningful immigration reform.
- **To join with Pope Leo** in praying for all migrants and refugees as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland.

December 2025 Peace Happenings

Christmas Gifts for the Simmons Family

It is a Christmas Tradition for Pax Christi Little Rock to adopt a family at this most sacred time of year, a time to celebrate the Savior's birth. To help the Little Rock Simmons family this year we provided gifts for everyone. After the mother met with PCLR representatives and shared the needs and wants of her family, the parents and five children, a wish list was generated and shared among the Board Members and several PCLR friends. Gifts were brought to the PCLR Christmas Party on December 11 and given to the happy and grateful Simmons family shortly thereafter. Special thanks goes to Board Member Margaret Douglas for arranging this year's seasonal giving project.

..For it is in giving that we receive...

Pax Christi's Annual Christmas Party

On the evening of Thursday December 11 the Friends of PCLR gathered in Fitzgerald Hall to celebrate the joy of the Advent and Christmas Liturgical Seasons and another full year of prayer and study and actions witnessing to the Gospel directive of peace through justice.



Board member Janie Kelley and soon-to-be Board Member Darlynton Adegor celebrating the giving and receiving of the Christmas Season.

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Mass and Rudd Award

On Saturday January 10, 2026 at St Andrew's Cathedral the annual Rudd Award by the Diocesan Council for Black Catholics (DCBC) was presented to Wendell Redmond for his service to the community and the Church. Redmond, a member of the Cathedral Parish, was recovering from a recent illness and unable to attend the Mass, so Bishop Anthony B. Taylor presented the Daniel Rudd Memorial Award to his daughter (Kelly Redmond) and granddaughter (Moriah Pedro). Redmond, a father of four and grandfather, served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years. While teaching at the Air Force Major Command Leadership Academy, he bridged gaps between communities and groups and facilitated teamwork. With his help, multi-race families were able to receive housing on base. Friends of Pax Christi Little Rock were present in force, led by DCBC members Father Harvey and Rozz and Tim Pruitt. Homilist for the Mass, Father Emmanuel Tanu, SVD, encouraged all to "let their light shine" as they lived out their baptismal responsibility.



Food Pantry Mission

Jan Pipkin

Pax Christi Little Rock partners with Settled Souls, a community outreach mission of Our Lady of Holy Souls and Christ the King Catholic parishes, providing furniture for needy families resettling into new homes. PCLR provides an initial supply of food to get the newly settled families through their first few days in their new dwellings. Our food pantry, under the direction of Jan Pipkin and Lee Bass, has completed 12 moves since October, averaging about two each month. With two different teams now handling deliveries, keeping an exact count has become more challenging, but the work continues steadily. We're also serving a broader community, receiving recipients from Jericho Way, Our House, and the Compassion Center. Another improvement this season is our shift to bagging food on-site. Instead of leaving tubs, we now place items in individual bags that stay with each household, giving recipients the flexibility to organize their food in the way that works best for them. If you would like to join the Food Pantry Brigade, please contact Jan at jan.pipkin4@gmail.com.

Pax Christi Little Rock Has a New Board Member

Darlynton Adegor

Mr. Darlynton Adegor, a graduate of the Clinton School of Public Service, an attorney, the Victims Services Program Manager of the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits in Little Rock, and a Doctoral Student in the UALR School of Criminal Justice and Criminology became the newest PCLR Board Member in February. He brings to our mission extensive experience in volunteer service activity, helping victims of injustice navigate the judicial system in Nigeria, supporting Arkansas Food Bank and Winrock International, where he helped develop a succession plan and a logic model to ensure these organizations could continue to serve their communities effectively, and as a Legal Attorney with the Syrian Emergency Task Force, reviewing and collating evidential material against the former Syrian President and his cabinet for war crimes. He is passionate about

helping victims of crime and working to find ways to reduce crime. This passion has led him to support the Pilgrimage for Peace Walk sponsored by Pax Christi Little Rock, an annual event which acknowledges the harm being done to our neighbors throughout Arkansas communities by gun violence.

Pax Christi Little Rock welcomes Mr. Darlynton Adegor.



Drs Sherry and George Simon Take the Reins at Pax Christi Little Rock

In February of this year Mary Hunt, the President of PCLR for the past three years, handed the reins of leadership to Sherry and George Simon. Sherry was our original President who took time away from PCLR to serve at the Pax Christi USA office in Washington DC but is now back in full time service to the peace and justice movement in Little Rock. She and George will guide us going forward as we continue prayer-study-action in hope, striving for a greater more steadfast peace in our own hearts so that we are better able to draw others into that peace. Thank you Mary for graciously and gracefully leading us these past few years.

2026 Spiritual Retreat for PCLR Board Member

The Pax Christi Little Rock Board met for retreat on February 28 at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in their new Parish Hall. Over the past year, the members of this board were involved in many projects including providing school supplies for three Little Rock schools, administering a food pantry for previously unsheltered individuals and families, provision of 100 Thanksgiving baskets through The Helping Hand, organization of the Pilgrimage for Peace, attendance at weekly demonstrations, sponsoring a monthly speaker series, attendance at many educational forums sponsored by other nonprofits, involvement in Pax Christi USA programs, fundraising events, and many more activities. It was time for some spiritual refreshment!



Drs. George and Sherry Simon led the retreat, focusing on the spiritual gifts given to each member by the Holy Spirit for this work. Special emphasis was placed on Pax Christi Little Rock's 10th anniversary, and there were tables filled with memorabilia from the many projects completed by Pax Christi over the past 10 years. Board members all contributed to a potluck lunch and attended Mass presided over by the Pax Christi chaplain, Fr. Warren Harvey. Fr. Emanuel Tanu welcomed the board to St. Bartholomew's and gave an inspiring opening address.



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 _____

Please mail your PCLR membership application to

Pax Christi Little Rock, PO Box 241074, Little Rock, AR 72223

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 out to Pax Christi Little Rock) to our **PO Box 241074** 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 always.