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**Our Email address & phone:**  
[paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com)  
517-481-5280, Mon – Fri 1 to 5 p.m.

*We thank you for your generous response to our fundraising appeals. It's your gifts of time, talent and treasure that keep Pax Christi Michigan going and growing.*

*If you and your friends, or your parish would like to start a local PC group, Call 517-481-5280 OR email: [paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com)*

**Mark Your Calendar!**

PCM's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual St Conference

**“Power: Who Lies, Who Dies, Who Pays, Who Profits?”**

April 21, 2012

Speakers

**Tom Cordaro**

Author, speaker, peace activists and

**Sr. Patricia Chappell**

Executive Director of PCUSA

St. Anastasia Church  
Troy, MI

Brochures will be mailed in January & will be available at [www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org)

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**Become a conference co-sponsor**

\$100 – PCM Friends

\$250 – PCM Peace Partners

You name will be listed in the Program of the Day

Final deadline for receipt of donation is April 14.

See page 11 for details

**A Blessed and Joyous Christmas!**  
*May the Peace of Christ fill your lives with hope  
And at the table of Peace, may there be  
Bread and Justice for ALL*



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Pax Christi Michigan

Fall/Winter 2011

[www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org)

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**Director Brings New Hope to PCUSA's Growth as Anti-racist, Multicultural Movement for Peace with Justice**

Washington, D.C.—Pax Christi USA announced that Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN has been hired as the national Catholic peace organization's new Executive Director. Sr. Chappell began her tenure on November 1<sup>st</sup> following PCUSA's recent relocation of its national office to Washington, D.C.



“This is an exciting time for Pax Christi USA as we explore new opportunities under Sr. Chappell's leadership,” stated Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, National Council Chair of Pax Christi USA. “Sr. Chappell brings a wealth of experience in working with religious communities, youth and young adults, and marginalized communities which will enhance and grow our work for peace and justice in the world.”

Sr. Chappell is a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Connecticut unit, and served on the Provincial Leadership Team for her community. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the Catholic University of America and was the Director of Youth Ministry at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish in Washington, D.C.



“We're delighted Sr. Chappell has joined PCUSA as its new leader,” stated Ronaldo Cruz, who has been serving as the Acting Executive Director for the past 4 months. “Her vision and experience will lead the Catholic peace movement into its second forty years as the conscience of our Church and society.”

Sr. Chappell was trained by Crossroads in anti-racism training and organizing and serves as the national co-chair on her community's anti-racism team. She was the full-time president of the National Black Sisters' Conference, from 1996-2001, and is on the Board of Trustees for Trinity University in Washington, D.C.

“I am most humbled and pleased to have been offered the position of Executive Director of Pax Christi USA,” stated Sr. Chappell. “I look forward to continuing and deepening Pax Christi's commitment to transforming itself into an anti-racist, multicultural movement for peace with justice.”

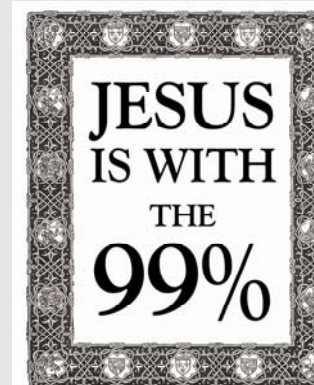


**Pax Christi Michigan, one of twenty Regional Pax Christi member groups in**

**PCUSA**, hails this as a positive move for PCUSA. “This is exciting news for the growth and development of our movement,” said Joan Tirak, PCM Coordinator. “Having an Executive Director with Sr. Chappell's cultural, professional and religious background is the spark we need to strengthen and authenticate our peace efforts. In the long run, we can only build a nonviolent, anti-war, interracial just, human rights, environmental world consciousness if we are equally intent on exposing the racism at the core of these issues.” ☀♥

For more information about the PCUSA Staff, go to <http://paxchristiusa.org/about/staff/>

▶▶ Michigan Peacemakers on the Occupation Movement (page 3-4)



**You cannot serve God and wealth**

♦ Matthew 6:24 ♦

## Catholic Social Teaching - The Just Faith Connection

By Hugh Conahan, PCM State Council Co-Chair



It is often remarked that one of the best-kept secrets of our Catholic faith is our Catholic Social Teachings. In keeping with the Pax Christi model of Pray, Study, Act, my wife Patti and I decided to become a part of a JustFaith group. We first were introduced to JustFaith Ministries at the PCUSA National Conference in Seattle, Washington in 2007.

Before embarking on this journey, Patti and I prayed separately and jointly. We both felt we were being called to do this in order to be able to offer the same opportunity to our Beatitudes Pax Christi group in our parish, St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton. This was the beginning of our "pray" portion of our journey.

One does not simply "join" a JustFaith group. Those who join must truly commit themselves to a JustFaith group. It is a large commitment. We agreed to spend 2 1/2 hours each week for the next 30 weeks, plus 4 local immersion events on separate Saturdays, and an opening and closing retreat all with a group of people from a neighboring parish. There are eight of us. We purchased an enlightening and informative group of books that we read on our own and discuss each week with the group: *The New Testament, Compassion, Tattoos on the Heart, Cloud of Witnesses* and *The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching*, to name the first few.

We also watched a variety of videos that made the social injustices of our world so real and painful to see. One thing we have learned about the study portion of Pax Christi is that it is never ending. We never know everything about an issue and the issues keep growing and changing.

The "immersion" events allow us to begin to "act" upon what we have been studying and praying about over the past weeks. These events focus primarily on domestic and global poverty. They open our eyes and hopefully our hearts to the needs of the poor. These are small steps into living our Catholic Social Justice teaching. These steps show us how to live the Gospel. How to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The prayer, study, and act of Pax Christi are remarkable and through the Just Faith program they are transformational.

In the book *Cloud of Witnesses*, Beyers Naude from South Africa says, "If you talk about hunger, go and see where hunger is. If you talk about injustice, go and view what kind of injustice. If you talk about racial prejudice, go and meet with people who know themselves and experience themselves to be the victims of that prejudice. Unless you are willing to do that, you can never discover the full truth of the Gospel. That was the example of Jesus."

Let me share with you two quotes from Jack Jezereel, the founder of Just Faith. "Abundance is not the problem. Abundance hoarded is the problem." "Become who we are supposed to become, not Dorothy Day or Mother Teresa." If you are interested in learning more about Just Faith and how to find a group visit [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org). ☺♥

Editor's Note: In 2009 Pax Christi USA officially partnered with JustFaith Ministries on a national level with the hope of offering an ongoing faith community experience of prayer, study, action to those who have completed the JustFaith program by creating OR joining an existing local Pax Christi group.

### HAS YOUR PCUSA MEMBERSHIP LAPSED?

By Gloria Switzer, PCM Membership Outreach Committee

It's that time of year when appeals from organizations, clubs, charities, and every cause under the sun coming pouring into my mailbox. It can be overwhelming! And, it's also the time of year when the media bombards us with ideas for gift giving. That too causes pressure and stress, if we let it.

We, on the Pax Christi Michigan Membership & Outreach Committee, certainly don't want to cause anyone stress or anxiety; especially during the upcoming holiday season when we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. BUT...we would like to suggest renewing your membership to Pax Christi USA, which automatically renews your membership in Pax Christi Michigan. AND... we would like to suggest giving just one other person a gift membership at the same time. Membership is open to ALL people concerned about peace and justice.

A regular or renewal membership to PCUSA is \$35 a year, more if you are able and less if you are not able. Both PCUSA and PCMI rely on the generosity of our members. Please check to see if your membership has lapsed and consider "re-upping" and bringing someone else onto the "peace wagon."

Joining with like-minded people on the journey of nonviolent peacemaking "is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith." *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1983.

Membership info can be found at [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org) OR from PCUSA, 1225 Otis Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017. Also at [www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org); PCM, 808 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing, MI 48910.

#### Pax Christi Michigan

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**OTHER MEMBERS:** Patti Conahan, Carol & Ron Jachim, Paul Newcomb, Julie O'Hara-Fisher, Jim Rauner, Luke Mattson, Gloria & Gary Switzer, Fr. Fred Thelen, Lydia Wylie-Kellermann. Council members may serve up to two consecutive 3-yr terms, followed by a 1-yr recess before rejoining the State Council. Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of January, April, July & October, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Any PCM member is welcome to attend the meetings as a non-voting participant. Working committees are: Finance, Membership Outreach, and PCM Young Peace Activists (YPA). If you are interested in attending meetings, serving on the State Council, or serving on a committee, please let us know so we can send directions and answer any questions you may have.



The U.S. prison facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba will enter its 10th year of operation on Tuesday January 11, 2011. The prison currently holds about 170 detainees. On January 22, 2009, President Obama signed an executive order to close the camp. His priority to shutter the camp has since faded.

On Jan 11<sup>th</sup> CODEPINK will join Witness Against Torture in Washington DC to protest the President's refusal to close the prison camp at Guantanamo. In Miami, local activists including CODEPINK will protest outside the U.S. Southern Command, the command center for the prison camp.

Looking for PCM Conference Cosponsors Could you be one?

Join PCM in celebrating 37 years of Gospel peacemaking, by co-sponsoring our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual PCM State Conference, "Power: Who Lies, Who Dies, Who Pays, Who Profits," Saturday April 21, 2011, St. Anastasia Church (Troy), 8am to 4pm.

Keynote speaker is Tom Cordaro, PCUSA Ambassador of Peace. Added Guest Speaker: Sr. Patricia Chappell, the NEW Executive Director of Pax Christi USA (See pg. 1 and the PeacEvents Calendar for more about the speakers).

**TWO CO-SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:** For a donation of \$100.00, your name will be included in PCM Friends List. Donations of \$250.00 - will be included in the PCM Peace Partners List.

**Cosponsorships help defray expenses & provide scholarships for students & low-income people.**

To have your name printed in the conference brochure, mail your donation by January 13, 2011 to Pax Christi Michigan, 808 W. Barnes Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910. Make checks payable to Pax Christi Michigan. Later arrivals will be printed in the Program of the Day.

Thank YOU!

## Please join us January 11, 2012

Come to Washington DC, Miami and participate, or plan an event in your own community. Unite the world and let thousands of people know about events happening in your town! Even organize your own events and share them with the world! Your submitted event will be shared on our website.



## Looking for ideas for your region?

Go to <http://www.codepink.org/section.php?id=171> for help and/or to register your area event.

**IMPORTANT RESOURCE:** WHO'S HELPING THE POOR? Michigan has the highest unemployment and weakest benefits. Read more at <http://www.milhs.org/> The Michigan League for Human Services is a unique and effective voice for Michigan's disadvantaged citizens. It is the only statewide organization committed to the welfare of Michigan's low-income citizens with analysis and advocacy expertise. See "Real People, Real Facts, Real Fallout" at [www.milhs.org/wp-content/](http://www.milhs.org/wp-content/)



## PeacEvents Calendar

**WEEKLY VIGILS: Detroit—Thurs:** Cease Fire! Rally from 12 noon to 12:30, Woodward at Jefferson. **Ferndale—Mon:** Silent Protest of the war & US occupation of Iraq 4:45-5:45 pm. Nine Mile & Woodward. **Lansing—Fri:** Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI) Vigil, noon-1pm in front of State Capitol. **Marquette—1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat:** 11:30-

12:30/Post Office. **Norton Shores—Sat:** Peace Protest, corner of Norton & Henry, noon-1pm. **Port Huron—Sat:** 2pm at the McMorran Fountain/downtown. **Saginaw—1<sup>st</sup> Fri** 5:00-6:00 pm at Bay and Tittabawassee Rds. Also Women in Black Vigil and film series - 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays. ▶▶▶ For more info contact Joan McCoy at [homeforpax@aol.com](mailto:homeforpax@aol.com)

**Dec 28, 2010 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prayer Vigil for the Holy Innocents** commemorating all those killed in war, by abortion and as victims of capital punishment. Sponsored by Blue Water Pax Christi in Port Huron St. Joseph Church, 7<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut in Port Huron, 48060. Interfaith service from 7 to 8pm. ▶▶▶ For more info, contact Mike McCarthy 810-982-2870, [mccpax@comcast.net](mailto:mccpax@comcast.net) or read blog at <http://mccarthysweekly-paxvobiscum.blogspot.com>

**Monthly Meeting of PCM Young Peace Activists-** An opportunity to imagine and plan for the upcoming year, Location: the Jeanie Wylie Community, 4963 Larkins, Detroit, MI 48210. ▶▶▶ For more info re future meeting times, email Lydia Wylie Kellermann at [lydiaiwk@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaiwk@gmail.com)

**Feb to April 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Season for Nonviolence Weekly Film Series (6 wks),** sponsored by Blue Water Pax Christi in Port Huron. Dates and location TBD. ▶▶▶ Contact Mike McCarthy 810-982-2870, [mccpax@comcast.net](mailto:mccpax@comcast.net) or read blog at <http://mccarthysweekly-paxvobiscum.blogspot.com>

**April 21, 2012 "Power: Who Lies, Who Dies, Who Pays, Who Profits"- Pax Christi Michigan's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual St. PCM Conference. Keynoter: Tom Cordaro,** PCUSA Ambassador, professional speaker, writer, organizer & national leader in the faith-based peace and justice movement. Added **Guest Speaker: Sr. Patricia Chappell,** SNDdeN, the NEW Executive Director of Pax Christi USA (See pg 1). St. Anastasia Church, Troy. ▶▶▶ **Brochures** will be on [www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org) and will be mailed with PeaceMaking News Briefs in **late-January. Questions?** Joan Tirak, 517-481-5280, [paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com)

**Everyday Occupy Movement in your local cities.** Join the work; support those who are keeping the day-to-day process going. Attend General Assembly meetings. Donate warm clothes, food, paper products, etc. Google "Occupy" for the latest developments.

## Reflection on the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pax Christi Michigan Retreat

By Mary Carry, Oakland Pax Christi



The Pax Christi Michigan Retreat – an inspiring, uplifting, encouraging time spent with a gifted community of peacemakers. It began with fun introductions. Did you know that Joan Tirak was once on the Ed Sullivan Show (“revealed” amidst the fun of the opening ice-breaker)?

On Saturday morning a beautiful reflection on the religions of the world brought us to a greater understanding of their symbols and their dedication to peace.

**Our Retreat Leader, the Prophet Bishop Tom Gumbleton** gave us the

challenge to be ‘artisans of peace’, to be continually envisioning peace and to share that vision with others. Tom began with how he resists the temptation to ‘just give up’ in these difficult times and how he looks to the ‘cloud of witnesses,’ the people who inspire him and help him to continue. He shared something of the people who have the spirit of God alive in them and enflame that spirit in him.

One of these people is Jim Douglas, author of *JFK; The Unspeakable Truth*, a well documented portrayal of John Kennedy’s dedicated efforts to transform the arms race to a peace race. Kennedy made serious efforts for peace from the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis to plans to withdraw military forces from Vietnam, all efforts that ended with his assassination. Tom urged us to read the book to help us believe that this can happen again. Tom reminded us of encyclical letters urging and the Pope’s saying, “Never again war.” He reminds us that we must continue to work to abolish war and that we, as Pax Christi, have to commit ourselves and urge others to commit themselves to the total rejection of war.

**We left with Tom’s challenge resounding in our hearts, “No to War – Envision Peace!”**

Tom reminded us that we need to identify the problems and to remove the blinders put on us by the military/industrial complex and the media. He urged us to listen well to the teachings of Jesus and speak about the rejection of war to our groups, our families and our friends.

We discussed the hope and value of small communities, people working for the common good and building the Kingdom of God. We gathered on Sunday for an inclusive participative Eucharistic prayer service, remembering people who have touched our lives. And we gave thanks for shared laughter, song, stories, commitment and love.

We left with Tom’s challenge resounding in our hearts, “No to War – Envision Peace!” ☼♥



## In Loving Memory of Jackie Hudson, OP

Died August 3, 2011

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bonds between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn’t fill it, but on the contrary, keeps it empty and so helps to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sr. Jackie Hudson will be forever remembered as a woman of great compassion, love, justice and peace, whose life was dedicated to resolutely following the nonviolent Jesus. She was a woman of God, who courageously gave her life in the struggle for social justice and in the battle to rid our world of the scourge of nuclear weapons. For her many acts of civil resistance and divine obedience, she humbly withstood the rigors of prison, inspiring us all to work for a nuclear free world – one in which there is justice for all of our sisters and brothers on this planet.

~ May she now rest in the peace of Christ ~

## Immigration Updates

By Rev. Fred Thelen, Pax Christi Lansing & co-chair of Action of Greater Lansing

**More immigrants continue to be deported than ever before.** It was good news when President Obama issued an executive order that cases of undocumented immigrants who have been detained should be reviewed and that those who are “low priority” (who have not committed crimes) should be released. Unfortunately this has not yet been implemented. Bureaucracy changes slowly.

On another note, recently in the County of Sonoma, California **the local Gamaliel community organization was able to get county officials, especially the police, to agree to accept the “matricula consular” as an identity card.** This is a high tech card hard to duplicate issued by the Mexican Consulate to Mexicans living in the U.S. So, for example, if the police stop someone who does not have a drivers license but has the matricula consular they would issue a ticket, but would not take them to jail for having no ID that the police could verify on their computers. This is something the **Civil Rights for Immigrants task force of Action of Greater Lansing, a Gamaliel Affiliate is looking into pursuing here in Lansing, as is MOSES in Detroit.** ☼♥

## Pax Christi on the Occupation Movement

### PCUSA Executive Director responds to the forced removal of Occupy protesters

The following is a response from Pax Christi USA Executive Director Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, regarding the forced removal of protesters at Zuccotti Park and elsewhere.

**November 15, 2011.** Pax Christi USA is dismayed over the forced removal of Occupy Wall Street protesters at Zuccotti Park and elsewhere. The right to assemble is integral to the freedom which the Constitution guarantees each and every citizen of our nation. The very act of peaceful assembly at the heart of the Occupy movement is testament to a growing awakening within our nation regarding responsible and active citizenship. To forcibly remove citizens who are exercising their rights peaceably is contrary to what our nation stands for.

Pax Christi USA asserts that the role of law enforcement is to protect the rights of those who have chosen to peaceably assemble and air their grievances regarding the injustice that touches virtually all of us—the 99%—across our nation. Whether it is the burden of unemployment, exorbitant student loans, the threat of foreclosure, or the inability to access affordable healthcare, a majority of our brothers and sisters struggle while a small minority benefit. The protesters who have occupied parks and other public spaces over the past two months have given voice to a rising dissatisfaction that many are experiencing in our country. Participation in Occupy encampments is not only an exercise of our rights but an exercise in empowerment, the recognition that together we form a majority which can advocate for the justice that all our citizens deserve, not simply those who can afford to buy it.

Pax Christi USA takes encouragement from the fact that in most cities and towns where Occupy encampments have sprung up, government officials and local law enforcement personnel continue to work in concert with protesters to assure the safety of those gathered and an atmosphere of constructive action. Where this is not the case, Pax Christi USA asks that local government officials recognize and support the right of protesters to peaceably assemble, and that local law enforcement personnel be instructed to enable and protect that right. It is important to note that this is the rightful role that law enforcement is called to play—the protection of our citizens as they exercise their Constitutional rights—not obstructing or impeding their ability to take action as concerned, empowered citizens.

## A New Heaven and A New Earth

By Dick Preston, Lansing

*“She looked upon her creation and declared it is good” (Genesis)  
And Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is within you.”*

With a slight presumption and small paraphrase, I happily share these reflections. “This is not a demonstration. It’s participation. Creation. This is movement where we can be ourselves, together...A new world.” (The Occupied Wall Street Journal, 10/12/11). Hundreds of OWSs are covering the land these days with joyous words of hope and service as well as actions of community building and interference in business-as-usual. I can hear the Creator chuckling with joy at this sight and Jesus reveling in the vision of his Kingdom present in parks all across the country. Folks living together in small spaces, eating at the same tables with the poor and outcasts. Creating public libraries, marching to the Wall Streets, inviting all to “Make Out Not War” – all signs of the arrival of the Kingdom. It is good and hopeful and a blessed time to be alive as we continue to keep our lives committed to the service of a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth. ☼♥

## On Occupy Wall Street – Midland, MI

From Joan Brausch



I’ve been part of the “Rebuild the Dream” movement since July, which is dedicated to motivating people of all political persuasions to become more politically active so that all Americans can once again reach for the American Dream of a good job, education, a home, security for their family.

The Occupy event that we called for on October 17 was the fourth demonstration in as many months and drew 50 people to the corner of Saginaw and Eastlawn in Midland, in front of the Bank of America. About half of the people there had been to previous events; others were new to any protest at all. What has impressed me about the Occupy movement is that people are angry and frustrated, not so much for themselves but for their friends and family members who are suffering - for those who have lost homes or jobs, those who have no health care, those who have seen their chance for a good education go down the drain.

And yet, on the 17th, the folks there (ranging in age from 6 to 80!) were kind to one another, shared their stories, and shared their concerns. I am very, very hopeful that the Occupy movement and movements like “Rebuild the Dream” which are peaceful demonstrations of people’s concerns, frustrations, anger and, yes, deep love for this country, are going to make a huge difference in the 2012 elections. ☼♥

(Read more on Occupy, pages 4 & 7)

## Economic Justice: Occupy Wall Street and Catholic Social Teaching

By Tony Magliano

(From the PCUSA Website, Oct 25, 2011)

The Occupy Wall Street movement has a powerful ally in Catholic social teaching! Recently I became more convinced of this truth after spending a couple of hours with the Occupy Baltimore segment of this now global movement. In front of Baltimore's pricey Inner-Harbor, I encountered a small tent city ranging from homeless persons to college graduates. Four of them talked with me about why they are there. In the shadow of a skyscraper with huge bold words Bank of America on it, one of the occupiers pointed to it and said "they, and the many other greedy corporations like them, control most of the wealth, while so many of the rest of us have so little."

Since the federal government's bailout of the mega banks and various other large companies, corporate profits have risen to an all time high. And yet, many pay little or no taxes. Hedge fund managers and CEO's are raking in millions, while huge numbers of families continue to lose their homes, 14 million people remain unemployed, 50 million have no health insurance and a record 46 million Americans live in poverty – including 16 million children!

Another occupier cited Nobel economics laureate Joseph Stiglitz's eye-opening calculation that the richest one percent of Americans now own 40 percent of the nation's wealth. And that the gap between the rich and the rest of us – especially the poor – is wider now than at any time since the Great Depression! The occupiers unanimously agreed that with this tremendous concentration of wealth comes a tremendous concentration of power. Wealthy corporations, with their large campaign contributions, wield considerable influence with Congress and executive branch, whereas the shrinking middle-class and poor have very little influence with America's policy makers.

Blessed Pope John Paul II addressed very strong words to these "structures of sin." He said, "The all-consuming desire for profit, and ... the thirst for power, with the intention of imposing one's will upon others" is opposed to the will of God! The Catholic social teaching principle known as "the universal destination of the earth's resources" insists that all people deserve a fair share of creation and the goods of humankind – certainly to the point of having each person's basic needs entirely met. Pope Paul VI taught that God intends for everyone to adequately share in the goods of the earth, and that all other rights must be subordinated to this truth! American society's failure to fulfill this ethical principle is a moral indictment against most of Washington's politicians, corporate America and liberal capitalism – which highly favors those with wealth and power at the painful expense of those with little or none. Blessed John Paul said the human inadequacies of capitalism are far from disappearing.

So much of America's political and economic system is unjust. And yet for the most part, Catholics are silent. Silence supports the rich and powerful, never the poor and weak! But Catholic social teaching calls us to speak up for the poor and weak. So let us raise our voices together with our courageous brothers and sisters of the Occupy movement. Demand that our do-little Congress significantly raise taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations, drastically cut military spending, stop the wars, create



millions of public service jobs, give small businesses – especially green energy companies – job-producing financial assistance, extend the efficiency of Medicare to everyone, pass strong anti-sweatshop legislation and greatly increase poverty-focused assistance to the nation's and world's poor!

*Tony Magliano is a Catholic News Service columnist whose work appears in diocesan papers throughout the United States. If your diocesan paper does not carry his column, PCUSA encourage you to call them and request that they do.*

### On Occupy the U.P. From Gail Griffith

On October 15, almost 200 people marched in downtown Marquette, a city of about 25,000 on the south shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We call our group "Occupy the U.P." and have a Facebook page and website. We spent about 45 minutes occupying all four corners of the main intersection (Front and Washington) in front of one of the four Wells Fargo banks in town. All very peaceful, but powerful. We then joined our local Citizens for Peace & Justice group in front of the post office where they have rallied on Saturdays for the last 9 yrs; then attended the General Assembly.

Having lived in this community for over 50 years, this is the biggest, most successful rally I'm aware of. We made the front page of the Mining Journal. Power to the people! ☀️

**NOTE:** Pax Christi member Martha Hayward emailed saying, "At Occupy U.P. we spoke Truth to Power - making connections between money spent on war resulting in funding cuts to social support programs, education, health care."

### On Occupy Detroit From Sally Peck

I went to Grand Circus Park the first evening with my granddaughter. Everyone who wished to speak could. I was SO comfortable being among folks I hadn't met before who were all of good will, welcoming and kind; in short in a society where it's easy to be good. Why don't we usually act so civilized? ☀️

### Southwestern Michigan Pax Christi (Niles)

We continue to meet regularly on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Parish Center. In August we set up a display at the Niles Riverfest and had many people stop by to ask about our activities.

On Sept. 11, we had a very successful vigil on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11. Clergy from 5 different denominations, along with Pax Christi members and St. Mary's pastor, Fr. David Otto, offered prayers or readings. Our service took place at the "break" in an already scheduled outdoor concert, **so over 200 people were in attendance!**

A joint letter, signed by all our members, emphasizing the need for drastic cuts in our federal defense budget, was sent to Rep. Fred Upton, a member of the "super committee."

This fall our meetings will feature the showing of "The Forgotten Bomb," a new DVD which examines the political and legal implications of nuclear weapons.

*Tom & Mary Mechtenberg, 269-861-1546, [machtenbergs@hotmail.com](mailto:machtenbergs@hotmail.com)*

### Peace Seekers Pax Christi (Dearborn)

In lieu of the July meeting, some members attended the Mary Magdalene event at Marygrove College put on by Call to Action-Metro Detroit group. This 11th annual event honored Mary Magdalene as a peacemaker and activist. Liz Walters IHM gave an inspired reflection and participants drummed and sang in praise of the Apostle to the Apostles. In lieu of the September meeting members attended the opening night event for the exhibit "Beyond the Wall." Images of Israel-Palestine from Nakba to Ni'lin. This extraordinary exhibit was on display at the Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center Gallery in Detroit until Nov. 5.

In October we met as usual, but had a special guest: Joan Tirak, PCM Coordinator, graced us with her presence. Joan came to offer us support as a new PC group. She also explained the work and priorities of PC USA and PCM. Her visit was important to us. We appreciated her encouragement and the information she shared.

*Mary Beth Seymour, 313-561-4736, [meseymour@ameritech.net](mailto:meseymour@ameritech.net)*

### St. Leo/Bishop Gumbleton PC (Detroit)

Our July meeting: Kim Redigan spoke to us regarding the Moveable Peace Campaign. In August people left Detroit, Grand Rapids and Saginaw on a walk to the capitol culminating in petitions being given to the state legislature to establish a Commission for Peace and Justice. This ten day walk began July 30<sup>th</sup>. (See pg. 6 and [moveablepeace.org](http://moveablepeace.org).) Our August meeting: Gail Presbey spoke about her recent trip to Honduras with SOA Watch. She talked about the government's actions re union-breaking, fixed elections, the extreme poverty and the on-going disappearance of dissidents. Our September meeting: The meeting fell on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We read Pax Christi Michigan's statement on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tragedy of 9/11/2001, spoke the names of 17 people from Michigan who died on that day, discussed our feelings and thoughts and ended with a Muslim, Jewish, Christian Prayer for Peace.

*Suzan Anderson, 313-259-1631, [suzanfa@comcast.net](mailto:suzanfa@comcast.net)  
Ron & Sigrid Dale, 586-751-1199, [ronfdale@yahoo.com](mailto:ronfdale@yahoo.com)*

### St. Anne's Pax Christi (Ortonville)

The members of the Pax Christi group at St. Anne Church held a non-violence training workshop. Twenty parishioners attended the all day event that was led by Kim Redigan, Sheri Wander and Jasiu Milanowski from Michigan Peace Team. The day proved to be a positive experience not only for the Pax Christi members but for all that attended. One participant said, "I especially liked learning about the 'I' messages," which she felt would help in family situations. Others appreciated hearing about the trainers' Palestine experiences.

*Judy Henley, 248-627-3822, [jubo974@aol.com](mailto:jubo974@aol.com)*



### Blue Water Pax Christi (Port Huron)

The Blue Water Pax Christi's monthly Sunday meetings have continued in 2011. On Sunday Oct 23, Dennis Crimmins gave a presentation on the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC). He gave a brief history of the SOA located in Ft. Benning, Georgia at a military base. A short film was shown that explained how the SOA trains soldiers from other countries to do the Pentagon's dirty jobs. In 1999, Dennis and his parents participated in a peaceful protest to Close the SOA. The struggle continues to close the SOA, with the annual November protest. On Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, we will host our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prayer Vigil for the Holy Innocents – call for location. Blue Water Pax Christi wishes everyone a blessed holiday season.

**Editor's Note:** We invite you to read Blue Water PC coordinator Michael McCarthy's Pax Vobiscum Weekly Blog at <http://mccarthysweekly-paxvobiscum.blogspot.com>

*Ruth Habalewsky, 810-982-8371, [rhablewsky@advnet.net](mailto:rhablewsky@advnet.net)*

### Alpena Pax Christi

The Alpena Peace Coalition has completed another full schedule of contemplative prayer services, films, discussions, music, speakers and liturgies designed to bring a message of peace and hope to local residents. The month-long observance began with an opening prayer service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. As part of the tradition, a peace pole was dedicated and installed at St. Paul's (one of five in the Alpena area).

Unique to this year's calendar were three new events. First, on the anniversary of the United Nations National Day of Peace, a dramatic prayer experience called "Silencing the Drums of War" was presented. Another new event was "An Evening of Poetry, Blues and Jazz" at a local coffee house. Iraq and Afghanistan poems from David Smith-Ferri's book "With Children Like Your Own" were featured. Finally, peace activist Kathy Kelly spoke to area residents about her experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq.



A continuing highlight of the 30 Days is the annual peace contest involving students from the private, public and home school sector. Their deepening awareness of how peace might come to the world is an inspiration to see.

*Sally Mae Buza, 989-884-1340, [sallymaebuza@yahoo.com](mailto:sallymaebuza@yahoo.com)*

### Oakland Pax Christi (Sylvan Lake)

Oakland Pax Christi met for the first time this fall on Friday evening, October 21<sup>st</sup>. In light of the continually deteriorating situation for people in need of public assistance we planned the evening program to try to give a review of the reality of Michigan's efforts and programs meant to help those in need.

We began the meeting with a prayer and reflection based on the writings of Oscar Romero and Mary Lou Kownacki, O.S.B. We invited Marguerite Kowaleski, the director of Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization to be with us. Marguerite has been an extremely dedicated advocate and counselor for those trying to access the daunting bureaucracy of Michigan's public assistance world since the mid 1970s. She spent the evening taking us through the realities of today for her clients. The frustration of those seeking help is almost matched by that of the case workers trying to help them. The case worker workload is many times what it was in earlier years and any kind of prompt communication with them is almost impossible. Information on the recent Michigan government decision to limit all cash assistance to 48 months lifetime is a prime example of the confusion, never mind the meanness and vindictiveness that prevails. Marguerite urged us all to increase our political activism to try to reverse the prevailing attitude in our state government and begin to bring some hope and real help to those in need.

*Bill & Mary Carry, 248-681-3205, [wic1mbc2@aol.com](mailto:wic1mbc2@aol.com)*

## Local PC Community News From Around the State

### “Somos Una America:” *We are one America from Christopher Columbus to Columbia, Georgia*

By Neville D'Souza < St. Anastasia Pax Christi



There were 31 of us Friday Nov. 18 on ICJP bus from Ann Arbor to Ft Benning, Georgia. We were a mix of young college students and those working or retired; first timers and those that were there before; ICJP, Pax Christi, union members and those that did not belong to any group.

We arrived at our destination at 7am Saturday. Our first stop was the Convention center to get updates by SOA Watch. Then we moved to the rally at the gates to Ft Benning. The speakers, music, display tables was invigorating.

We were back at the Convention Center in the evening for the workshops. After an overnight stay at a motel we were at the gates of Ft Benning Sunday at 8:30am for the prayers, music and the Funeral Vigil commemorating those killed by SOA graduates. The number of protesters was down. This was the second year without the Jesuits (they go to Washington in April). The economy, unemployment and the Occupy demonstrations in the country took a toll on the turnout. It is the largest protest at any Military facility.

The **SOA Watch** has made inroads into closing of the base. Besides the April meetings with the legislature; Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Venezuela have pulled out their troops from SOA/WHINSEC. Cost Rica backed off after first agreeing. 2010 Encuentro in Venezuela was successful in laying the seed and igniting the spark of the vision for one America.

When Columbus in his search for the Indies landed in the New World, he did not realize it. It was Amerigo Vespucci in 1507 that figured it out and it was called America after his name. Thus the SOA/WHINSEC by creating all this



turmoil has the people aroused and people from the Yukon in the north to Cape Horn in the south were chanting “**Somos Una America – We are one America**” at the gates of Ft Benning. Then we all will join the rest of humanity and share it. (Picture shows some of the Michigan delegation.)

### “No Sweat!” Say High School Peacemakers

#### *U of D Jesuit JustPeace/Pax Christi Undertakes Schoolwide Sweatfree Campaign*

By Kim Redigan – U of D Jesuit JustPeace Moderator

A large and committed group of student activists at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy is putting Catholic Social Teaching into action by lobbying for sweatfree, union made tee shirts among the school's many student organizations, an effort dubbed “**U of D SWEATFREE 2011-2012.**”

As part of this campaign, student activists have produced a video on sweatshops that will be shown throughout the school and have held screenings of the films, *The Return of Triangle*, a documentary that compares the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire with an almost identical tragedy 100 years later in Bangladesh, as well as the eye-opening film, *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price*. They have also held a strategy session with Fr. Norm Thomas and Sr. Cathey DeSantis from the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance Sweatfree Committee.

One of the highlights of the campaign will occur on Friday, Nov. 18 when U of D's JustPeace/PC group will host Charlie Kernaghan and Barbara Briggs from the Institute for Global Labor and Human Rights <http://www.globallabourrights.org/> at U of D Jesuit in the morning before hopping on a bus to Sacred Heart Church for a large, public Lunch and Learn with Charlie and Barb that will focus on global labor issues, especially in Jordan and El Salvador.

Three days later, students will hold their annual JustPeaceCoffee House featuring Manuel Padilla and Amy Watts from Pax Christi USA who will screen *Cite Soleil: Sun, Dust, and Hope* followed by a discussion on the SAKALAPeace Education Soccer Program organized by Pax Christi Haiti. Since last spring, U of D JustPeace/PC students have worn soccer jerseys identical to the Haitian players' as a sign of solidarity. Amy and Manuel will bring greetings from the Haitian youth and will share ideas to enhance this partnership. After the presentation, attendees will gather for a Haitian meal.

In other news, three members of JustPeace/PC, Jerome Vaughn, Dante Violette, and Kiernan Babcock, will attend the Ignatian Family Teach-In at Georgetown on Nov. 11 and 12 with JustPeace/PC co-moderator Matt Wooters. Sophomore Joe Santilli and senior Dante Violette were part of the Nonviolence Training and Retreat sponsored in mid-October by Pax Christi's Young Peace Activists and Michigan Coalition for Human Rights Youth Committee and Joe Santilli traveled to Lansing in August to participate in the Moveable Peace 2011 gathering at the Capitol.

Details about *Cite Soleil: Sun, Dust and Hope* below.  
[http://paxchristiusa.3dcartstores.com/Cite-Soleil-Sun-Dust-and-Hope--DVD--See-video-sample\\_p\\_246.html](http://paxchristiusa.3dcartstores.com/Cite-Soleil-Sun-Dust-and-Hope--DVD--See-video-sample_p_246.html)

#### **Start your own parish or school PC Group!!**

Just invite 5 or more people with a passion for justice and a heart for peacemaking to come together for an introductory session.

**For help getting started, contact Joan Tirak**

517-481-5280 or [paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristimi.coord@gmail.com)

## 30 Days of Peace in Newaygo County

Last spring, Gloria Switzer, facilitator of Newaygo County People for Peace and a member of Pax Christi Muskegon, attended a workshop at the Pax Christi Michigan annual State Conference that led to a successful first time endeavor in Newaygo County; “**30 Days of Peace 2011.**” The workshop, led by Sr. Catherine Anderson, OP, Sally Buza and Carol Skiba of Alpena Peace People Pax Christi, gave examples, suggestions, and encouragement to workshop participants on how to organize a “30 Days of Peace” in their own communities; modeled after the “30 Days” initiative in Alpena.

Taking that information and the enthusiasm of the Alpena group, Gloria decided to share the idea of a 30 Days of Peace initiative with several people in the business and faith community, and soon a steering committee of 15 individuals were on a roll and “30 Days of Peace 2011” in Newaygo County was born. **The committee decided that Sept. 10 through Oct. 10 would be committed to PEACE-FULL LIVING** in the county and would include events and activities, sponsored by various organizations and churches promoting peace, unity, joy, compassion, service, understanding, and non-violence and more.

**Highlights of the 30 days** included singer/songwriter Carol Johnson of Grand Rapids, for a kick-off celebration for children and families on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and folksingers Ruth and Max Bloomquist, of Muskegon, “singing for peace” at the Black Box of the Dogwood Center on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. On the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, a Peace Pole was dedicated in front of the Fremont City Hall, with the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in Potawatomi, Dutch, Japanese and English, and read by local citizens with connections to those cultures (see picture). In the evening of the IDP, intercultural consultant and linguist Alan Headbloom gave a presentation at the local library called “Leaving Our Comfort Zones: The Power of Flocking with Others.” Each of the libraries in the 5 small towns of Newaygo County, participated by having children create peace flags and other peace art work. The film, “Beyond Belief” the story of 2 American widows whose husbands were killed on 9-11, who used their grief to connect with widows in Afghanistan, was shown on Sept. 11 at the Dogwood Center for Performing Arts.

**Events also included activities planned by local faith communities.** The Newaygo Area Ministerial Association planned a peace and prayer walk, held each Wednesday at noon, in a different park in Newaygo. They also held a walk for peace in the City of Newaygo on The International Day of Peace. Participants took sunflowers to each business and church in downtown Newaygo and sang and prayed as they went. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) sponsored a presentation “Vietnam—40 Years Later” by Mr. Phan Van Do, the project coordinator in Vietnam for the Madison Quaker.



Pictured at the Peace Pole ceremony are Mayor Jim Rynberg, the family who unveiled the pole; Mike, Amanda, Zen & Sova Jones, Rev. Case Admiraal, Rev. Carolyn Spragg, Hitomi Brokaw and Gloria Switzer.

**Projects included** schools, the My Lai Peace Park, and comfort homes for victims of Agent Orange. St. John's Episcopal Church held a Peace Liturgy and a “pulled pork peace potluck” for the community. Local citizens Beth Mooy shared her travels to Africa and Serbia with *The Foods Resource Bank* and made the connection between hunger and peace or lack of; and Sue Ellen McCreary shared about her travels to an orphanage in India with *Traveling with a Purpose*. A local minister, Chadwick Walenga, gave a presentation on the non-violent resistance of Jesus and there was also a drumming circle on the banks of the Muskegon River, a Peace Dance with Nia Dance trainer, Winalee Zeeb, at Camp Newaygo, and a parade entry during the Harvest Parade by the NC People for Peace, “Sowing Seeds of Peace” with children handing out packets of sunflower seeds. The first annual Newaygo County 30 Days of Peace ended with Fr. Peter Dougherty, founder of the Michigan Peace Team, sharing his “blueprint for a peaceful world” at a soup and bread dinner in Fremont.

**For the first year, the 30 Days Steering Committee of Newaygo County were happy and excited about the success of this peace initiative, especially since it got off the ground at such a late date. Its success proved the truth in the statement by Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.”**

### **The Courage To Be Fortright**

#### **Letter to the Editor of the Lansing State Journal**

*(Printed with permission of Ret. Lt. Col. Richard Doezema)*

I listened attentively as Dick Cheney was interviewed regarding his position on water boarding expressed in his recent book. I am not just upset, I am angry.

I shudder to think that the President and Vice President of my country approved torturing another human being. By all standards, water boarding is torture in spite of what Dick Cheney may claim.

*I served twenty two years in the Marine Corps and saw combat with the enemy. I do not want the enemy or any nation believing America approves water boarding a serviceman or any other human being.*

G.W. Bush and Dick Cheney were wrong and I am ashamed that I voted for them.

**Richard Doezema, Lansing, [jrdoe@comcast.net](mailto:jrdoe@comcast.net)**

## Moveable Peace Walk: Occupy Main Street

By Kim Redigan, PCM State Council Member



A few months ago, a small group of us set out to walk from Detroit to Lansing over a period of ten days, an effort dubbed Moveable Peace 2011 Peace Walk, an idea that emerged during the U.S. Social Forum the previous summer. Other walkers left on foot at the same time from Grand

Rapids and Saginaw as part of a planned statewide convergence on the State Capitol on Nagasaki Day.

Today, I look back on the peace walk and ask myself what, if anything was served, by walking along Grand River during some of the hottest days of summer. Was our walk self-indulgent? Was it anchored in a stubborn hope in search of itself or was it a desperate act to ward off a spirit of impending despair during days that are increasingly hard to decipher? To what degree was our walk a way of picking through the shards of democracy that lie broken on empire's floor in search of something salvageable, something good, something decent, something essentially American?

As I write, 41, 000 folks in Michigan, 30, 000 of them children, are losing cash assistance benefits in a state with one of the worst unemployment rates in the nation, democracy is being usurped by the imposition of emergency managers on our state's poorest cities, unions are under attack as workers from teachers to postal carriers are demonized, and the drums of war continue their tired and incessant beat. There is a pall, a lethargy, a kind of dazed and confused feeling that has descended upon this nation like a heavy, wool blanket, the kind that will be in short supply this winter as the poor of Michigan wrap themselves in newspapers on the snow-swirled streets of Detroit, Flint, and Pontiac.

And yet . . . underneath all the grim news, something is trying to be born. A resurrection is waiting to happen and it's anyone's guess how these strange times will shake out in the end.

From Wall Street to Woodward, a new spirit is rising that shouts, "Enough is enough!" as people begin to shake off the paralysis resulting from the sucker punches thrown by the Snyder administration, the corporatistas, and a broken two-party system beholden to big money. The people of Michigan have taken hit after hit to the head by these bullies and, while stunned and punch drunk, they are still in the ring, fighting for their lives and the lives of their children. These are the folks we wanted to meet on our walk to Lansing.

While the peace walk was probably prompted by a thousand different motivations, not least of which was a sincere desire to wish all we encountered "pace e bene" (peace and goodwill) in the spirit of St. Francis, Peace Pilgrim, and scores of others who

have taken to the road, I think, ultimately, it was about trying to listen deeply to people from around the state who are staggering under the blows inflicted by the war economy and the corporate takeover of the commons. In short, the walk was a way of meeting people on their own terms. Beyond political parties. Beyond focus groups. Beyond media stereotypes. Beyond anonymous postings on the internet.

It was a way, I suppose, of trying to discover some tenuous thread of unity in the unraveling fabric of our divided country.

Rather than recount the details of the walk, it is enough to say that people are good and people are scared and people are hungry for a sense of local community. We consciously stayed away from large stores and chain restaurants in order to support local merchants, and over and over we heard the same refrain, "Please shop local. Eat at your local cafes and coffee houses, shop at local businesses. Live simply. Turn off the television. Talk to your neighbors."

**...it was about trying to listen deeply to people from around the state who are staggering under the blows inflicted by the war economy and the corporate takeover of the commons.**

From the drunken veteran we met on the streets of Howell who told us we would "hate him" if we knew what he had done in Iraq to the philosopher-farmer outside Fowlerville who walked away from a lucrative business in a Detroit suburb to raise organic food and beautiful babies, we were moved by the openness and goodness of the people we met.

How different the state looks when one if gets off the freeway cluttered with the same handful of big box stores and ugly billboards – symbols of our atomized, corporatized, supersized country. Walking Grand River at a leisurely pace and spending time in local laundry mats and diners holding on for dear life in an era of corporate personhood, prompted in me a spirit of nostalgia and melancholy. At times, it felt like we were walking through the set of a Springsteen video – this land is *whose* land? A real sense of the magnitude of the Goliath we face and a sense that something good is being grabbed from our hands by interests that care little for the people of this land.

There was much time while walking through soy bean fields and small towns to ponder the enormity of an economic system whose voracious appetite for small towns and everyday people knows no limit. We are in the maw of a machine that is destroying our towns, our country, our planet.

And yet . . . we are people of faith. People who, against all odds, hedge our bets on David and on the promise that although the arc of the universe is long, it does indeed bend toward justice. We must occupy Wall Street but we must also occupy our local businesses, our town hall meetings, our own front porches. If we hope to bring about the revolution of the heart so often mentioned by Dr. King and Dorothy Day and usher in the Beloved Community, we must remember that our work for peace, justice, and sustainability begins close to home. We must find creative ways to live differently and locally in order to subvert an idolatrous system that crushes people for the sake of profit. We must take the time to talk to one another and rediscover what it means to be human. ☀️♥️

## Young Peace Activists Update

By Lydia Wylie-Kellermann

It continues to be a rich and meaningful opportunity to work with high school and college students from YPA. They are a talented, passionate, and dedicated group. Each month these students continue to meet, build relationships, and do the work. They amaze me! Quite a few of our students went off to college this fall and we do miss them. However, we continue to grow and build new community.

Since the last newsletter, we had our first day long anti-oppression training led by Melanie Morrison with Allies for Change, our second nonviolence training retreat with Michigan Peace Team, and have just returned from the School of the Americas Protest. And it truly feels like it is just the beginning of the year. Lots more to come!

This is our third year as YPA travelling to the SOA Protest. It provides such a deep and meaningful experience that students continue to make the time to return to Fort Benning. It is a weekend filled with music, celebration, dancing, community building, learning, grieving, and resisting. **SOA Watch** is truly doing amazing work and we are grateful to join with them. It was a gift to travel with Ann Arbor's Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and we were joined by several members of the Pax Christi Michigan State Council. **Several students were able to go because of receiving scholarships from Pax Christi MI's Youth fund.** *Thanks to all who have donated over the year. It certainly means a lot.*



Sarah Fntin, Vicente Elizondo, Lydia Wylie-Kellermann, Julia O'Hara-Fisher, Sarah Brooks, and Tera Warn at the SOA Protest

## Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

### PCM Young Peace Activists Monthly Meeting

Jeanie Wylie Community, 4963 Larkins, Detroit, MI 48210  
An opportunity to imagine and plan for the upcoming year. For the next meeting time, email [lydiaiwk@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaiwk@gmail.com).

### PCM's Annual Conference – April 21, 2012

Join us for a workshop designed and organized by high school students, a young people's caucus, and a workshop to make plans for the future of the young adult movement in PCM:  
**"Power: Who Lies, Who Dies, Who Pays, Who Profits?"**  
See brochure online in late January at [www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org).  
Scholarships available if needed.

## Reflection by students on the Occupy Wall Street Movement

"As I marched to Grand Circus Park in Detroit on October 14th chanting "this is what democracy looks like," I felt the overwhelming truth of that statement in that moment. As I looked around me, I saw men and women of all ages and all races, coming from every walk of life imaginable to walk together. For the first time in a movement such as this, I fully believed the words I chanted. The Occupy Wall Street is not being led by environmentalists, human rights activists, or any group. It's being led by the people. By all people. The citizens of America have realized something is wrong, and now is the time to stand up. I believe it is wrong that I am 18 years old and in debt because of the cost of college. I believe it is wrong that money is power, and that the power in America resides with so few. I believe it's wrong that corporations should be able to influence the cleanliness of the air I breathe and the minds of the people I elect. It's time to stand up for what is right. Corporations are not people; we are people. And while individually we are students, teachers, workers, and families, together, we are the 99% and we will reclaim democracy."

- Marion Berger, freshmen at University of Michigan

"Occupy Wall Street is a symbolic movement to bring awareness to the corporate greed on Wall Street. The movement is very important to bring such awareness, and demand change in the way the economy—in which 1% of the population owns 40% of the wealth. It is important for our country to be aware of the imbalance of wealth in our economy, the corruption of big businesses, and the inherent lack of ethics in today's corporate world."

- Jackie Wilke, senior Mercy High School

The occupy movements are not only important, but vital to our nation's stability because of the wide range of effected parties. It is not a small group of enraged minorities; this is, as the slogan of the movement states, "The 99%." This is one the first time in our country that the vast majority of the citizens are voicing their frustrations. This is an important movement because of its issues, diversity, and magnitude. The need for a movement of this size and importance has been needed for a very long time. We the people are unhappy and that is the bottom line. It cannot and will not be pushed aside.

- Sarah Fentin, senior Grosse Pointe South



Dante Violette, Sarah Fentin, Ellen Lezotte, and Joe Santilli at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual YPA Nonviolence Training in November