



Summer 2017 Vol. 35 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI 48911
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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE 2018 PCM STATE CONFERENCE

Timothy Wirth, who negotiated the 1997 Kyoto Protocol for the United States, called Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords "a stunning moral abdication of responsibility to future generations." Just days before the president's announcement, he met with Pope Francis at the Vatican. As a parting gift, the pope presented Trump with a copy of *Laudato Si'*, the 2015 encyclical letter on the environment. Unlike Trump, who has claimed climate change is a hoax, Francis' encyclical affirms that global warming has been confirmed by a "very consistent scientific consensus," and that humans are the cause.

Despite the pope's compelling and urgent appeal regarding the future of our planet and the environmental challenges we now face, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Scott Pruitt, is spearheading efforts to



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State Council:

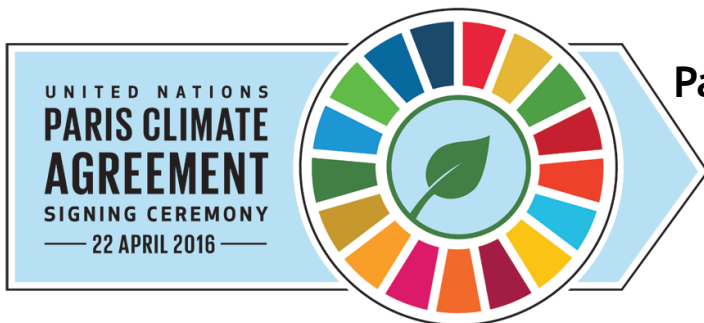
- Chair: Bob Podzikowski (Oak Park)
- Secretary: Carmen Kelly (Harper Woods)
- Treasurer & Assistant Coordinator: Pat Valaer (Lansing)
- State Coordinator and IT: Mary L. Hanna (Laingsburg)
- Young Peace Activists Liaison: Tera Warn (Detroit)
- Council Members: Mike Kelly, Ed Lorenz, Marilyn Lorenz, Jim Rauner, Kim Redigan, Fred Thelen, and Aida Cuadrado.

Pax Christi Michigan...

- Meets the 4th Saturday of January/April/July/October from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Any PCM member may attend as a non-voting participant. ©
- Working committees include: Finance, Membership, Technology and Young Peace Activists.
- If you are interested in attending a meeting or serving on the State Council, please let us know, or contact us if you have any other questions.

discredit decades of climate science research. In addition, while serving as Attorney General of Oklahoma, Pruitt sued the EPA some 14 times, seeking to block clean water and clean power rules as well as pollution limits. The administration's anti-science, pro-industry approach stands in stark contrast to the entire tradition of Catholic social teaching on environmental issues. Principles, such as a God-centered, sacramental view of the universe, which establishes human accountability for the fate of the Earth, are being challenged as never before.

Our **Pax Christi Michigan 2018 State Conference** will focus on environmental justice. It will be held at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish in Westland (which also hosted our 2017 conference) on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. Our keynote speakers will be **Father Tom Lumpkin**, longtime leader of the Detroit Catholic Worker at Day House and Manna Meal Soup Kitchen, and **Maureen Taylor** of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. Tom has done presentations on *Laudato Si'*, and Maureen's passionate activism includes work to prevent Detroit water shutoffs and mortgage foreclosures. *Please plan to join us at this crucial time for the life of our planet, and for the future of humankind!*



Pax Christi USA's Statement on United States' Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement

President Donald J. Trump just announced that he is pulling the United States out of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a necessary step towards reversing climate change and the damage humans have inflicted upon the environment; it has been approved by all the world's countries except Syria, Nicaragua, and now the US.

Mr. Trump said the U.S. will "begin negotiations to reenter either the Paris accord or an entirely new transaction on terms that are fair to the United States...So we're getting out but we'll start to negotiate and we'll see if we can make a deal that's fair."

"Fairness" for Mr. Trump comes back to dollars and cents rather than human dignity, care for creation, or a preferential option for the poor. This attempt to increase wealth and make "America first" continues to put the earth and people in situations of poverty last. As pollution increases, temperatures soar, and water levels rise, people in poverty are quickly and negatively affected. The poor are subject to increased thirst, starvation, and

disease as well as increased conflict and war over access to basic human needs.

Mistreating our earth and our people will eventually catch up with the United States for we are not immune to the damage we create. Climate change's effects cannot be contained to the coasts and to those with the least amount of wealth for long. In the end, we breathe the same air and drink the same water, and we must see that when we hurt one another and creation we also hurt ourselves.

Sr. Patricia Chappell, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, said, "The biblical mandate to care and tend to the earth for its people transcends individual countries and nations. Today's decision makes a mockery of democracy and Pax Christi USA pledges to use every nonviolent means in joining with others to resist this decision."



Reflections on our 2017 State Conference: The Death of the Just War Theory

By Carmen & Mike Kelly and Carol Hofer

On April 1, 2017 the 36th annual Pax Christi Michigan conference was hosted by Sts. Simon and Jude parish in Westland. The theme of this 36th annual statewide gathering was **"The Death of the Just War Theory and the Birth of the Catholic Peace Church."** The 200+ attendees were blessed with a lovely spring day, a beautiful facility, warmly welcoming parish hosts and above all, Spirit-filled presenters.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton has been called a prophet, one who speaks troubling truth with loving candor and unvarnished clarity. From the initial words of his opening address, those present recognized that his message was – and is – prophetic. This founding member and a past President of Pax Christi USA immediately re-framed the topic theme, pointing out that the Catholic Church does not need to become a "peace church", it was *born* as a peace church and therefore to abandon the so-called just war theory is not new for the Church but, rather, a long overdue return to heeding the teaching and example of Jesus and to the Church's own early understanding of the Gospel of the Prince of Peace. He pointed out that the "Catholic Peace Church was born on Calvary 2,000 years ago" and quoted the noted Jesuit scripture scholar John L McKenzie who said, "If Christ did not reject war, then we know nothing about Christ." In the early centuries of Christian rejection of war "Christians were martyred for refusing to serve in Caesar's army." However, as the Church became more politically integrated into the Empire gradually assuming great secular power, attitudes toward war shifted. From Constantine onward Christians began to serve in the wars of the emperor as is sadly largely the case today. Bishop Gumbleton observed that in practice the just war theory died long ago; that in his lifetime it's never been used to justify or criticize a war. Indeed, it seems to some that the very idea of a war meeting the nominal just war criteria is illusory, unless perhaps as a pretext for preparing for the next war – this one "really will be good". Although a superficial view may say that perhaps some wars are means of bringing about justice, in fact they always lay the seeds for more conflict and inflict as much evil as they purport to address. He gave as an example the "good" war, WWII, which itself emerged from WWI, the "war to end all wars", and, despite having defeated the Nazis and Imperial Japan, led directly to all the wars of the so-called "post-war" era, from 1945 to Korea, the horrific convulsions in post-Colonial Africa and Latin America, Vietnam, Afghanistan's multiple wars, the Iraq wars, and up to the present time which - as we see - is rife with armed conflict.

As he warmed to his theme, Bishop Gumbleton made a powerful impression on listeners as he surveyed the horrors of war and the hypocrisies which surround those who claim to find it in some way "just". Almost without pause he cited the following points refuting any sense that a war could be "good". His almost hypnotic litany of apocalypse then and apocalypse now and apocalypse yet to come included: Robert McNamara in *The Fog of War* says that on March 9, 1949 the USA sent bombers dropping incendiary bombs over Tokyo to inflict the maximum target destruction for the minimum loss of USA lives, 83,793 Japanese burned in this one bombing raid. Despite official disclaimers and excuses, we bombed

cities freely; our targets were not limited to military structures. Ultimately 900,000 people were incinerated, mostly civilians. All this was a mere prelude to August 6 and 9 when in 9 seconds 1 bomb obliterated 100,000 people, many being vaporized from the heat. A history of the Vietnam War: Kill Anything that Moves, by Nicholas Terse based on official papers, documents that rape, torture, and indiscriminate killing were not isolated tragedies but the norm in that as in all war. 2 million civilians were killed in Vietnam another 5 million wounded, 30 billion pounds of munitions to equal 640 Hiroshima bombs were dropped, mostly on civilians. Agent Orange caused human and environmental horrors which are still playing out their havoc. In 1991 Iraq was bombed every night for 60 weeks in a row. We destroyed infrastructure, water purification systems, sewage treatment centers, electric grids, etc. We imposed an embargo on Iraq where 1.5 million people died in "excess death numbers." Yet another ground war still going on there. In Central America, 1970 and 1980's: Low intensity warfare, depending on US supplied weapons and training to protect the wealthy, resulted in 200,000 deaths in Guatemala through our support of a puppet regime. 2016 has been the worst year so far for the children of Syria in that seemingly endless civil war. Child deaths are up 20% from the year before. Child soldiers are becoming a "normal" part of war strategy in many conflicts, sometimes as a means of finding soldiers and often also to imposing terror and disruption as a means of social control.

The Bishop expressed deep appreciation for Pope Francis, who calls the Catholic Church to go back to ancient roots as found in the gospels. This, it should go without saying, is a primary reason for the existence of Pax Christi, that is to call the Church to hear and heed Jesus' call to love our enemies and to discern that this might mean "don't kill them."

"A just war has simply never happened", he said. Pope John XXIII said it is irrational to think of war as an apt means to fight for violated rights. Bishop Gumbleton reiterated Pope Francis' call to "Reclaim Christ's teachings, no more anguished acceptance of evil, or standing on sidelines, wringing hands". He ended his impassioned and prophetic vision of our role with perhaps a bit of intended irony in a call for the people of Pax Christi Michigan to "go out and fight for peace with love and non-violence."

After a break and the opportunity to visit the numerous vendors who brought their wares to this year's conference, we returned to the sanctuary of Sts. Simon and Jude to hear the first of two presentations by Marie Dennis, our other featured speaker. We were so fortunate to have two people with such deep backgrounds in the Catholic peace movement. A mother of six, Marie has been co-president of Pax Christi International since 2007, she played a role in convening the Vatican conference to discuss the abolition of the just war theory, and was named the National Catholic Reporter's "Person of the Year" for 2016. In the morning and then in the afternoon Ms. Dennis spoke on the Catholic Nonviolence initiative which engaged in a consensus process in April 2016 and crafted "An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence." Her remarks also touched on how nonviolence can be integrated into personal and ecclesial life. This historic assembly of lay men and women, theologians, religious, priests and bishops from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Oceania was an historic response to Pope Francis who sought their "thoughts on revitalizing the tools of nonviolence, and of active nonviolence in particular." Many of the participants were non-Catholics.



She gave us an enriching understanding of practicing nonviolence as being “a way of life, following Jesus and knowing that our challenge is to make it relevant not only personally but also in the world.” She observed that we may tend to overlook structural violence built into the systems of power and politics. She recommended that to better understand active nonviolence we study *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* by Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan.

In addition to giving this year's Pax Christi Michigan conference attendees an overview of the Church's understanding of the many facets of working toward nonviolence, Marie also raised some intriguing observations on a process which may result in continued and even more intensive discernment within the Vatican, focusing on renewed consideration of the role of women, perhaps even resulting in an encyclical, or even in the calling of an ecumenical council. She also called on us to focus on potential violence within the church through systemic ecclesial injustice such as with reference to women, children and church workers.

We then learned of the Charter for Compassion from Dave Borzenski of Pax Christi Lansing. The Charter is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but compassionate action to religious, moral and political life. Dave provided us with a detailed overview of the Charter which transcends religious, ideological, and national differences. Following the conclusion of this lively presentation we were invited to join in signing and promoting the Charter. For more information, go to <https://charterforcompassion.org/>

After an enriching morning we all savored a delicious lunch prepared by the Sts. Simon and Jude Ushers Club, which featured pasta with homemade sauces simmered throughout the day. The hospitality of the people of this parish was often noted by speakers and attendees alike throughout the day.

We also had the pleasure of honoring Ron and Carol Jachim as our Purple Ribbon for Peace award winners, and Kezia Curtis as our Young Peacemaker recipient. All the information about these inspiring people can be found at <http://www.paxchristimi.org/2017-award-honorees>.

In the afternoon, we had an opportunity to ask questions of Bishop Gumbleton and Marie Dennis. One of the interesting elements of the faith & peace journey for both speakers was that for each, an encounter with real, harsh, grinding poverty played a role in their coming to understand that accompanying the poor was a foundation of their appreciation for the centrality of nonviolence in Christian life. Another common theme each mentioned in the Q and A was that it was not up to the hierarchy of the Church to bring about the real and radical change needed to make Roman Catholicism a peace church, but rather it depends on and demands that this initiative come from each within the Body of Christ - - the people in the pews. Marie observed that Pope Francis is no doubt eager to move toward nonviolence being a central commitment and witness of the Church, but that it is impossible for him to move very far in that direction unless a lot of active and vocal Catholics are also behind it. So, Pax Christi, there is *much* for us to do.



Pax Christi International, PCUSA, and PCM State Council Respond to Pope's Call for a Return to the Nonviolent Christ

At the suggestion of PCUSA, Pax Christi Michigan sent the following letter to every Bishop in the state of Michigan:



November 2016

Dear Most Reverend Bishops of the State of Michigan:

Pax Christi Michigan is forwarding the enclosed article for your consideration as you gather in Baltimore for the USCCB Conference. As the recognized peace and justice voice for the Catholic Church, we uphold the priorities emphasized by Pope Francis himself. Most especially, we want to emphasize his consistent cries for:

- A church for the poor
- The church as a field hospital, a church of mercy and compassion
- The practice of synodality at all levels of the Church
- The end of clericalism; the empowerment of the laity
- The promotion of justice and peace, and the protection of the environment.

Please consider the enclosed article from Thomas Reese (*National Catholic Reporter*), which elucidates these priorities.

We remain committed with you in the Church's quest for the common good,

Mary L. Hanna
State Coordinator
On behalf of the Pax Christi Michigan State Council

The article we refer to above is entitled ***"A Francis Agenda for the US Bishops"*** by Fr. Tom Reese, and can be found on the National Catholic Reporter's website, <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/faith-and-justice/francis-agenda-us-bishops>

We received ONE letter in response...from Detroit's Archbishop Allen Vigneron. His brief note back is on the next page (Yes, the scan is a little crooked):



ARCHBISHOP OF DETROIT

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT
12 STATE STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

15 June 2017

Ms. Mary L. Hanna
Pax Christi, Michigan
201 W. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

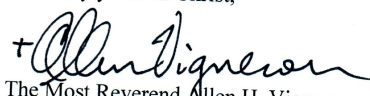
Dear Ms. Hanna,

Thank you for your letter which I received on 2 June. In your letter you share with me your desire to see the Church more actively committed to non-violence. Know of my appreciation for the sentiments which motivated you to write.

I will give your concerns my considered attention.

Thank you again for your letter. Entrusting you to the intercession of St. Anne, patroness of the Archdiocese of Detroit, and wishing you God's blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 
The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit



Pax Christi Members Take Action: Training for Nonviolence with Meta Peace Team

PCM Members Pat Valaer, Jim Rauner, and Gail Presbey participated in Meta Peace Team's 8-hour **Violence De-escalation Skills Training**, with Jim and Gail continuing on to take the 3-day long **Training for Trainers**. Three of the facilitators for the weekend workshop are also members of Pax Christi: Fr. Peter Dougherty (PCUSA' Teacher of Peace recipient), Mary L. Hanna (Pax Christi Michigan State Coordinator), and Kim Redigan (teacher at UofD Jesuit High School). The



"When Christ disarmed Peter
in the garden, he disarmed all Christians."
-Tertullian

trainings focus on how to de-escalate violent situations before they explode, and how to nonviolently intervene when violence does break out. In this age of militarism, Pax Christi Michigan members remain dedicated to perpetuating the methods used by the nonviolent Jesus....A way of hope for the future.

PCM's Joan Tirak Recognized as Lifetime Peacemaker

The Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing has honored Joan Tirak with their Annual Lifetime Peacemaker Award. Paul Brun del Re, PEC Board Member, nominated Joan for her many years of faithful leadership as Pax Christi Michigan Coordinator and her on-going commitment to the poor and homeless in the Lansing area through her work with Loaves and Fishes ministries. She is one of the original founders of the shelter and has been a member of the "core community" since its inception in the early 1980s. Joan has been a mentor to many in the peace movement. Her life exemplifies the tenets of Christian Nonviolence and Catholic Social Teaching. In her acceptance remarks, Joan noted that "...receiving this award, while still alive, means remaining faithful in uncertain times, supporting and accompanying all of you on your peace-with-justice journeys..."

The Pax Christi Michigan State Council applauds Joan on this well-deserved recognition, and thanks her for inspiring us with a life of service to others and dedication to making our world a more just and peace-filled place.

Congratulations, Joan!!!



Pax Christi Michigan Loses Long-Time Friend and Member Ann Briganti



A celebration of Ann's life was held Saturday, June 24th at her son's home in Milford, MI.

Ann was fearless, fun-loving, and dedicated to peace with justice—both in the world and in the church. She was devoted to her husband John, who preceded her in death several years ago, and to her four children and five grandchildren.

Ann was a true activist, faithfully working to make the world a better place for all. She served two three-year terms on the PCM State Council.

Ann was also a member of Call to Action and the Women's Liturgy Group, that promoted greater involvement and recognition of women in the Church. She was an active member of Meta Peace Team, and served on a number of Domestic Peace Teams.

She will be greatly missed. God bless you, Ann. Rest with the angels.

PCM State Council Musings

FINALLY...A MERTON/GETHSEMANI PILGRIMAGE!

- Bob Podzikowski

In resolving conflict, whether person-to-person, in international diplomacy, or anything in-between, it is always wise to strive for a “win-win” solution. When I “discovered” Pax Christi 35 years ago, I simultaneously “found” Thomas Merton. Several group members spoke glowingly of the man, his writing, and his work for peace and justice - all from a Trappist monastery in Kentucky. Talk about the ultimate “win-win!”

For years, I had the intention of visiting the Abbey of Gethsemane, Merton’s home from the time he entered the Cistercian Order on December 10, 1941 until his accidental death on the very same day in 1968. This Spring, my wife Jane and I finally made the trip, or as I referred to it, the “pilgrimage.” I was like the proverbial “kid in a candy store,” and that was at our first stop, the gift shop! We also saw Merton’s grave and the main chapel. However, access is rather limited for day visitors; for example, Merton’s hermitage is off limits. We skipped the hiking area on the monastery grounds since it was very warm for late-April, and we also wanted to get to the Thomas Merton Center at

Bellarmino University in Louisville. After dinner the same evening, we went to the corner of 4th and Muhammad Ali (formerly Walnut) in downtown Louisville, where Merton had his famous “revelation” on March 18, 1958. As described on the memorial plaque, a sudden insight “led him to redefine his monastic identity with greater involvement in social justice issues. He was ‘suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people.’”

I encourage Merton fans to plan a visit to Gethsemane, and to the Merton Center as well. However, a word of caution from Merton himself is in order. In responding to a young man attracted to Merton’s writing who wanted to visit the monastery in 1968, he encouraged him to pray and seek God’s will. “But don’t build on a mud pile like me! I just don’t have disciples, don’t look for disciples, and don’t think I could be of any use to disciples. My suggestion to you is to be a disciple of Christ, not of any man.”



Walking With Christians for Peace in El Salvador

- Kim Redigan

In late June, a group of eight students and two adults from U of D Jesuit High School, including JustPeace members, joined CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador) for an eight-day delegation to El Salvador. Grounded in solidarity, accompaniment, human rights, nonviolence, solid social analysis and theological reflection, CRISPAZ offers an intense program that connects history to present day issues, including migration, neoliberal economics, and environmental issues.

The delegation celebrated mass at the crypt of Oscar Romero and spent time at Divine Providence where he was martyred; prayed at the site where the churchwomen were killed; visited the Monument of Truth and Memory where the names of the murdered and disappeared are etched; reflected on El Salvador’s deep history at Museum of the World and Image; and visited the UCA (the University of Central America) where the Jesuits and their housekeeper, Elba, and her daughter, Celina, were killed.



The most important learning occurred in the stories and lived experiences that were so generously shared with the delegation. There are no words to communicate the heartbreak of the father from COFAMIDE (the Committee of Family Members of Migrants Who Have Died or Disappeared) whose beloved son went missing years ago as he fled north to escape the gangs in his neighborhood or the horrific stories of torture and war



shared by the Delegates of the Word and community elders in the village of Papaturro where the delegation was offered hospitality for three days. The U of D group also spent time with the inspiring Sr. Peggy O'Neal, Director of Suchitoto's Art Center for Peace, met with community members involved in educational and economic microloan projects with Programa Velasco in San Salvador along with local artisans whose work support community medical needs, and spent an afternoon with their Jesuit high school peers at Externado San Jose.

Spending time in Papaturro, an organized community that came together in a Honduran refugee camp during with war, was a highlight. This is a deeply connected base community that leans heavily into worship and scripture and committee work, a community that has worked closely with CRISPAZ. It was good to learn how this small village in El Salvador is

taking on water privatization, women's rights, and youth leadership. It was good to sit at the feet of others and learn. A poem was written by PCM board member, UDJ teacher, and JustPeace moderator, Kim Redigan, when asked to reflect on Papaturro and love: You may find it at <http://www.paxchristimi.org/walking-with-christians-for-peace-i>

The Guernica Project

By Ed & Marilyn Lorenz

In the Winter, 2017, Council member Ed Lorenz was on sabbatical from teaching at Alma College. He and Marilyn, a fellow Council member, have been involved in several related projects to increase understanding and advocacy of peace and justice. One of their special concerns has been to understand how to reverse the global decline in indignation at news of civilian casualties in war. In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, the German bombing of the city of Guernica led to Pablo Picasso capturing global outrage in his painting named for the city. Ed and Marilyn were shocked in 2003 when news surfaced that the State Department insisted that the U.N. cover the copy of Picasso's painting that hangs outside the Security Council chambers. The U.S. did not want Colin Powell to be interviewed in front of the painting after he exited the Council after urging it to support the war against Iraq. Subsequently, Marilyn and Ed began taking Alma students to Guernica as part of a class on Leadership in Support for Human Rights and Peace.

Since starting those visits, they have been frustrated that, if anything, news of civilian casualties in war have become so routine they usually are ignored. Our world has witnessed not growth in moral standards constraining military action, but a decline in expecting war crimes to be punished. There are several projects on-going through the peace center in Guernica (Guernika Gogoratuz). One was actually launched by a Basque survivor of Guernica's bombing, Luis Iriondo, and a Japanese Nagasaki survivor, Hiroshi Suenaga. Iriondo is a leader of Marching Together in Peace (Marchemos juntos en Paz) that seeks to preserve memory of war so people change.



For English coverage of the Guernica-Nagasaki dialogue see: <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/newsroomtokyo/aired/20170607.html> Another project building on Picasso's memorializing of the evils of civilian deaths in war is "Kid's Guernica." It urges children from around the world, especially from communities victimized by war crimes, to create their own art expressing their feelings. [Check: <http://kids-guernica.blogspot.com/>] Clearly, there is the need to give a face to the civilian victims. Our visits to Guernica make us determined to focus on the media's coverage of wars to pressure leaders to restore respect for international law related to civilians in war. Too often our media, especially in the U.S., covers war atrocities by focusing on the immediate 'causes' of violence or the techniques of bombing and not on the persons of the civilian victims. In this era when leaders talk of fake news, the most tragic fake news is to treat military killing of civilians as mere collateral damage necessitated by 'accidents' of war. The media and political leaders need to be held accountable for ignoring the criminal nature of civilian killing in war. When coverage of the crime is hidden by the strategic or technological details those responsible and those covering the 'news' need to be compelled to return the focus to the victims of the crime. While it is extremely difficult to gather accurate statistics and even good personal stories of victims of bombings, the hope is to build a network of recorders who would focus on specific conflicts and regional sources for information to supply some reliable information to a global network that then could pressure major global media to focus on the tragedies inherent in war crimes against civilians. We need to restore the global indignation at such tragedies that Picasso exemplified in 1937. *Ideas about how to implement this project are welcomed. Contact Ed at lorenz@alma.edu*

Local Group Updates

Pax Christi Lives in our St. Ignatius Catholic Community

By Carol Jachim



Six years ago, Ron and I joined the St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Community in Detroit. We had known that Fr. Tom Lumpkin was the Mass celebrant each Sunday; so we knew we'd hear an inspirational homily each Sunday focusing on social justice issues and the peace message of Jesus Christ. We were not disappointed, and since have regularly attended the weekly worship service located in the Samaritan Health Center complex on Conner Avenue.

Not surprisingly, we discovered several long-time Pax Christi members had been members of the St. Ignatius group. We felt comfortable and further discovered other followers of PC in our new church community. This community of approximately 40 was formed after the Detroit parish was closed in 1989.

Fast forward to the last PCM state conference, when Ron and I received the annual PCM Purple Ribbon for Peace Award, in addition to many of our blood family members present, several of our church family members made efforts to be with us. Fr. Tom Lumpkin, Sr. Alice Baker, Jerry Chojnacki, Sr. Mary Ellen Gondeck (now of Kalamazoo), Vivienne and Ray Kell, Gail Macks, along with Sr. Schreiber and Roberta Bodley (who were members of our early PC East group decades ago). So grateful we were to have them all with us at the conference.

As we mentioned at the conference, we could only accept the Award on behalf of all of PC members and supporters....people who lend support to PC in whatever small or large way they are able. For example, those who handle house and family tasks allowing others to join in an all-day protest; those who prepare meals for demonstrators; those who monetarily donate; those who give kind words of support; those who offer special communication skills; those who offer lodging for out-of-town peace workers, those who participate in conferences and retreats, etc., etc. Peace groups, like Pax Christi, are a beacon of light to remind us of the importance of peace work. Support for these groups, comes in different ways, yet, each way contributes to the whole.

When times are bleak, we depend on hope ... hope for a better world, a more peaceful, nonviolent world that comes to us by way of organizations like Pax Christi. Many thanks and appreciation to those who help keep Pax Christi alive and energetic. We need you, we need each other. May the *Peace of Christ* be with all of us as we move forward.

**Pax Christi Michigan's
37th Annual State Conference**

**People, Poverty, Planet:
Our Prophetic Mission**

Saturday, April 14, 2018



**Ss. Simon & Jude
Catholic Church
Westland, MI**

**Keynote Speakers:
Fr. Tom Lumpkin
Maureen Taylor**

***Focusing on Human
Dignity and
Environmental Justice***

PCM's Jim Rauner presents:

Michigan Justice and Peace Academy

Social Justice and Nonviolence 101

What can we learn about Social Justice, Working For Peace, and Nonviolence?

**"If You Want Peace, Work for
Justice, Nonviolently"**

Exciting and Practical....

How to Change the World!



Violence never solves any problems. It always creates more of them. If you are strong enough, learn about a **Force More Powerful!** Learn what the nonviolence of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jesus, and many others, can teach us about creating justice for all and peace in the streets of the United States.

8 Week Fall Semester:

Class will begin on October 7th, 2017 on Saturday mornings, from 9am to 12pm at **Immaculate Conception Church** in Hartford, MI. *Enrollment is limited to 30 participants so please register early.*

For More Information and Registration, go to:

www.Action4Peace.US



www.paxchristimi.org

paxchristimi.wordpress.com/

**The Annual PCM
Fall Retreat**

The date for Pax Christi Michigan's 23rd Annual Fall Retreat has been changed to the first weekend in November:

November 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 2017

at the

Maryville Retreat Center

18307 Taylor Lake Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Our Facilitator Will Be

**Fr. Tim
McCabe, SSJ**

Mark your calendars now
and plan to join us!



PCUSA/PCM Membership

JOIN or RENEW NOW!

I believe that "peace is possible" and want to join Pax Christi USA – also giving me regional membership in Pax Christi Michigan:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The regular membership fee for Pax Christi USA is \$40 per year—more if you are able—or whatever you can afford. We rely on the generosity of our members. Please consider enclosing a membership contribution to Pax Christi USA for:

___\$40 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$500 ___other

At this time I can only contribute _____

Check any of the following:

___I would like more information about joining or starting a local group in my area or school.

___I would like more information about the Parish Sponsorship Program.

MAIL TO: Pax Christi USA
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