



Co-Coordinator's Corner

By Pat Ferrone

"We must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart." -Pope Francis
"After all, we are one family living in one house. We are all interconnected." -Fr. Emmet Farrell

Because the climate crisis is ever on our minds these days, further reflection on this troubling topic seems important. I will start with an overview of the Pax Christi MA Assembly in November, with Fr. Emmet Farrell of San Diego as keynote speaker on "Tending the Garden to Create a Sustainable Earth - Perils and Possibilities." Fr. Emmet is the head of the Creation Care Team for the Catholic Diocese there. The focus for his work in Catholic parishes, and other faith communities, is "Laudato Si - On Care for Our Common Home."

Few of us can ignore the reality of what's unfolding before our very eyes - harsher weather patterns, uncontrolled fires and floods, massive migrations, and explosions of violence. We are also reminded that the hands of the

"Doomsday Clock" are perilously stuck at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest ever to global disaster, recently set in place by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Their criteria for advancing the hands included the real possibility of nuclear war and the growing climate catastrophe.

Intensifying these grievous concerns are the "corruption of the information ecosphere...by governments using cyber-enabled disinformation campaigns to sow



Doomsday Clock 2020 (npr.org)

distrust..." and the self-serving interests of political leaders who disparage, or are perversely ignorant of, their responsibility to the well-being of the world and its people. We need look no further than our own country and its descent into eviscerated policies around environmental concerns and withdrawal from essential treaties on international relations and the nuclear arms buildup.

Fr. Emmet's talk was the catalyst for engagement among the 64

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Climate Crisis: How Can We Stop the Fire?

By Ryan Hagen

The climate crisis is not just another issue. It is an era. And that is because *the climate is the context in which everything else takes place.*

Our food supplies, our water supplies, our livelihoods, and the basic habitability of communities around the world are increasingly at risk due to extreme weather and biodiversity loss - the effects of which are not linear, but rather compound over time and interact in unpredictable ways.

The infrastructure we've built and the global, interconnected systems that society relies on are woefully unprepared to meet this growing emergency.

The 2019 United Nations report *United in Science* contains some of the most important information: https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/united_in_science

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NOTE: To promote a greener future with a leaner budget, print copies of this newsletter are mailed only to our readers who have no access to email.

Co-Coordinator's Corner...

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folks who came together at St. Susanna's for the day. He presented us with ideas and the rhyme and reason for activism, and made available a helpful 10 session Basic Course on Pope Francis's encyclical as a discussion guide. We were inspired and prodded by the challenges of Francis's analysis of the problems at hand, and the biblical spirit that enjoins us to "steward" the earth with seriousness, as we have failed to do in the modern era. (Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, says that as people of faith, "We're finally starting to understand the (awe-ful) meaning of that "dominion" over the planet we were given - a responsibility that so far we haven't lived up to.")



*Fr. Emmet Farrell at the assembly
(photo by Phil Mandeville)*

The afternoon portion of the program featured a panel of four, each of whom offered a lens through which to address particular issues, or to ameliorate some of the problems associated with global warming. Because of the range of ages of the panelists - from the 20s to the 70s, there was a sense of new intergenerational possibilities for prayerful, serious action.

These were represented by the engaged work and wisdom of Brayton Shanley (Agape

Community co-founder) and Sr. Betty Cawley (Justice Promoter for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston) over the course of many years, and the more edgier and more activist spirits of Nathan Kleban (Agape Community intern) and Ryan Hagen (creator of crowdsourcesustainability.org), both of whom were impatient with the systems of exploitation that characterize the aberrant spirit of developed nations, but deeply involved in working with others to create new responses.

Amidst the unpredictability of whether we humans will act on behalf of God's creation in the time available to us, we continue to celebrate and support one another's work. This year, our Peacemaker Award was given to Professor Lisa Cahill of Boston College; we honored Sue Malone with a Lifetime Peacemaker Award for her continuing commitments to peace; and, in absentia, Nathan Kleban received the Youth Peacemaker Award on behalf of Greta Thunberg and the Rising Youth of the world.

Though some of the details of the day now elude me, the spirit was imbued - maybe even "charged" - by the energy of the thoughtful exchanges among all participants. It seemed to support the sense that the global climate picture is grim - 10 years left to mitigate some of the damage - IF we halt the burning of fossil fuels and keep global temperatures - IF we don't annihilate ourselves and the earth with a nuclear exchange - IF we 'metanoia' our beings and recognize our need for humility, and the satiation of our appetites at a more modest level - IF we truly recognize the interdependence of all creatures and the living earth -

and IF we truly believe that we are to be God's hands and feet and heart, acting in the world.

In a recent email, friend and Pax Christi member Alice Kast wrote, speaking of metanoia - "turning around": "Obedience (to God) would be a return to the sacredness of all creation and a learning opportunity to teach interdependence beyond laws of any human origin. Silence - no words but listening to how trees and plants and animals do life dependent on each other in an emerging universe...where humans are not kings."

Because all good gatherings are fruitful, it is clear that beyond the diagnosis of the problems we face, small things are happening in the afterwards of the day. I can report a few efforts arising from the St. Susanna community. Weeks after the assembly, as we segued into Advent, our Christmas creche



*St. Susanna crèche Christmas
2019 (photo by Phil Mandeville)*

became a symbol of the current reality of globally rising waters, particularly affecting those least responsible for causing it. The dramatic display elicited silent, thoughtful reflection from the many who viewed the disarming scene: water covered the animals, and rose up to surround the wise men and the lowly witnesses to the child Jesus and the holy family.

Plastic debris appeared to float on the surface, another human artifact of disregard and trashing of the environment. No words were needed to interpret its meaning.

Soon after, and in keeping with our commitment to maintain a focus on what we can do under the threat of the “Sixth Mass Extinction,” Pax Christi, along with the Parish council and the Climate Care Team, offered the idea of a “Voluntary Carbon Tax Witness” to the parish. Our hope was that individuals would pledge to calculate an amount of money they’d be willing to pay over and above the cost of fuel for their vehicles. This was considered a reasonable first-step focus for most people, though upping the ante by considering other fuel consumed, either in heating or in travel was, of course, possible.

The funds gathered from this ongoing commitment will support efforts, both locally and globally, to reduce greenhouse gases and to create a sustainable future for our planet and its inhabitants. Our first collection of \$500 will be sent to a group bringing solar energy to far-flung villages in Africa. Because we benefitted from others who initiated similar programs, we offer our ideas as a possible model for consideration. Already, we have shared details with Fr. Emmet, who is introducing the idea to the diocese of San Diego, and with 11 faith communities in Dedham, and elsewhere, some of which have already agreed to collaborate on the work of “repairing the earth.”

We understand the need for our state and country, and beyond, to withdraw from reliance on fossil fuels entirely, but in the meantime, we hope that our gesture will encourage our legislators to create meaningful forms of action that will, at least, mitigate some of the
Winter-Spring 2020

worst effects of inevitable climate alterations, already guaranteed.

It is fitting here to remember Glenmary priest Fr. John Rausch, who led the Pax Christi MA assembly on November 2, 2013 at St. Susanna. I believe his presentation and humble presence was our first explicit exploration of the devastation of the earth caused by acts of human hubris. His recent death, at age 75, completed his longtime ministry in Kentucky which focused on the devastating consequences of mountaintop removal (which he called the “subjugation of creation”) and the subsequent desecration of the land and its people by the extraction of coal. For years, he utilized the power of sacred symbols, prayers, and moral persuasion, to draw



Fr. John Rausch at St. Susanna in 2013 (photo by Phil Mandeville)

attention to the fact that at least “500 mountains in Appalachia, have been destroyed and 1.2 millions of acres of hardwood forests have been clear-cut.” Listen to the power of some of his words in this essay from “Sacred Acts.” Perhaps they can be seen as an epitaph to a life animated by the love and action that transforms other lives and circumstances:

“My spirituality compels me to join my voice with those who speak out to revere creation. I need contemplation from the beauty in nature, and I feel bloated when I over consume. I feel purpose when I act with care beyond my own self-regard. To disregard this

internal compass is, for me, to lose direction in my life. This insight has shifted my understanding from a focus on humans to one of humanity-in-creation, from dominance to mutual interdependence. For me the challenge now remains to transform thinking within the church from a pyramid with humanity on top to a circle that puts humanity within the web of life guided by the mystery of God.”

In conclusion, here are some partial ideas suggesting actions collated from different sources, to consider in our vocations as peacemakers and climate change activists:

-Break the climate silence and talk with everyone about the climate crisis. We’ll only solve problems if we make climate problems and solutions a much bigger part of our collective conversation.

-Because human systems created the problem, work to affect changes in policy and economics that might actually move the system enough to matter.

-Ask legislators to support carbon pricing and incentivize renewable energy.

-Highlight climate change as a spiritual matter by focusing on values and attitudes.

-Engage young people - and join them in their actions.

And, from Ryan Hagen: “Instead of despair, we need hope; instead of fear, we need courage; instead of powerlessness, we need action.”

Pat Ferrone is co-coordinator, with Fr. Rocco Puopolo, of the Pax Christi MA board of directors.

Fr. Rausch was eulogized by Pax Christi USA, including informative links regarding his life and work: <https://paxchristiusa.org/2020/02/10/fr-john-rausch-teacher-of-peace-passes-away/>

Climate Crisis...

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This is an emergency. Our house is on fire. We need to start acting like it.

What can you do?

If we're going to stop global warming, it will be because enough people like you and me are stepping up. What we each do matters. A lot.

Now, there are hundreds of things you could be doing to help reverse global warming, but we need to focus on the most effective actions. Incremental changes alone aren't good enough anymore. We need to take the actions that have the most impact.



(crowdsourcingsustainability.org)

Here are the best actions you can take according to 16 sustainability experts:

*Speak up – break that climate silence!

Talk to the people you know about climate change and why it's important to you. If we're not talking about it, people don't care. If people don't care, we'll never take action.

*Get the right people to represent us in government.

How? Vote for climate champions. And do what you can to help them win.

*Hold your existing representatives accountable.

Push for climate policies that are in line with what science demands, not what is "politically feasible".

Bills for *carbon pricing* and initiatives like the *Green New Deal* are excellent. (remember we need to cut global emissions in half by 2030 and be net zero by 2050 for a 50% chance at limiting warming to 1.5C)

*Collaborate. Organize with others. Join a movement!

Work with others to bring about real change. Whether it be in your community, company, or country, you have a better chance of making systemic changes when you join forces with other people. As Bill McKibben said, "Movements are, history would indicate, the one way we have of standing up to unjust, entrenched power."

(There are lots of great organizations out there. A few that I know to be great are 350.org, the Sunrise Movement, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Extinction Rebellion...and Crowdsourcing Sustainability, of course.)

Here's some quick background on me and my work:

*I am a HUGE sustainability nerd. Lover of life. Terrified by the science. Inspired by all the amazing people who are stepping up. Activist on the side. Believer in a healthier, safer, and more just world.

*I founded Crowdsourcing Sustainability to help reverse global warming ASAP by unleashing the power of people everywhere. There are now 21,000+ people reading my work that is written at a dining-room-table-made-desk in Needham.

If this mission resonates with you, please consider signing up for the Crowdsourcing Sustainability newsletter at the link below.

Every week or so you'll hear about:

- *The effects of climate change.
- *Meaningful actions you can take to help reverse global warming.
- *Big picture - how are we doing?
- *Stories, insights, trends.



Ryan speaks at the assembly (photo by Phil Mandeville)

I hope to continue the conversation with you - and be well! This is a heavy topic. We need to take care of ourselves and each other :)

-Ryan Hagen created the web site Crowdsourcing Sustainability: <https://crowdsourcingsustainability.org/>

Grants from PCMA to Local PC Groups

Local groups may apply for grants of up to \$250 to support projects which are in keeping with Pax Christi's mission by contacting PCMA treasurer Charle Gobron for an application form: 6 Bolser Avenue, Natick, MA 01760; or cgobron@aol.com

A View from the Capital

By Brian Ashmankas

This is my third and last column. The series began by detailing the many opportunities I found for activism and lived faith when I came to the city, continued with hope for a church and country riddled in challenge, and now concludes with my departure from the city, at least as a full-time resident. My call to priesthood continues and grows. I hope to be one who brings God to people and people to God, who speaks and preaches prophetically in favor of the Gospel of Nonviolence and opposed to every form of oppression, and to be a shepherd to a flock – guiding, accompanying, and coming to smell like the sheep.



Brian Ashmankas (PCUSA)

So does the call to continue in my Catholicism – in the tall, wide, and deep church I spoke of last year, the one that shines through its sometimes tragically destructive aspects and which is represented by the Catholic Nonviolence Movement Pax Christi.

However, God has also shown me over time that living these calls well requires the partnership of a wife, and that as the powerful movement of the Spirit that originated this October in the Amazon Rainforest has not yet reached the United States, it was now time for me to step back from my seminary path.

My time in Washington was a wonderful stop along the journey. It exposed me to a world beyond Massachusetts, where I had lived my entire life up to that point, while confirming how much the same Massachusetts is truly home for me. It expanded my mind and my spirit. I learned about liberation theology and deepened my understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and the Spirituality of Nonviolence. I made great friends among Pax Christi activists, Catholic Workers, Franciscans, Paulists, diocesan priests, academics, and so many more.

I marched in rallies, went to museums, sampled the food of numerous cultures, and was inspired by monuments. I saw the best and worst of the Catholic Church and encountered God in both. I could not have asked for more from two and a half years.

I have now returned to my home, Massachusetts, the place where my journey of faith and journey of nonviolence began and where I feel called to live it out. However, I retain my membership on the National Council of Pax Christi USA and will return at least once per year for meetings. One of those times was in January. The national movement is in a time of transition. Sr. Patty Chappelle was appointed to the leadership team of her congregation, and Johnny Zokovitch has stepped into her role as executive director.

He brings with him a passion for Pax Christi and many ideas for growing the movement, especially among young people. One is the establishment of parallel chapters composed of younger peace and justice activists. They would be supported and mentored by the older members of existing chapters, but free both to lead their own groups and to help guide the direction of the wider movement.

I believe this idea has the potential to renew the movement but also requires us to let it be transformed.

Ultimately, I believe the future belongs not to organizations with members but to movements in which activists participate, which, as the name suggests, are



Johnny Zokovitch (PCUSA)

constantly moving and changing. Pax Christi and the Catholic Church of which it is an essential part both need to embrace this paradigm shift. To fail to do so would be to their great peril.

Thus, I have moved on from seminary and out of DC, but I continue to move along the path on which God has called me. I have no regrets about my time in DC; indeed I learned and grew in many ways from it. I now move to the next steps in my journey. I know only fleeting aspects of the destination. God is saying to me, “be a priest...be catholic...be in Worcester...be married.” The journey is no clearer, but I know Pax Christi will be part of it as it has been all along and that it will involve transforming myself, the church, and the world into ever more nonviolent and just realities.

I am grateful to all of you for being companions on this journey and hope that we will continue to journey...continue to move...together on this path.

-Brian is a longtime member of the Pax Christi MA board of directors.

Sowing Seeds of Peace

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

Recently I teamed up with Pat Ferrone, my fellow co-chair of the Pax Christi Massachusetts state board, to offer an evening presentation on the history and work and why of Pax Christi at St. Susanna Parish in Dedham. St. Susanna's parish family has welcomed Pax Christi MA on many occasions for our assemblies over the years. They have warmly hosted our members from throughout the state, and we have always appreciated their hospitality. But we assume nothing. We wanted to offer these wonderful friends the back stories of what Pax Christi is. This evening presentation was a collage of stories about how Pax Christi was begun and is today.

I began the sharing with a reflection on the person of Jesus, one who, like us, lived in a time of extreme violence due to the Roman occupation, his experience as a refugee in Egypt with all the associated prejudice, and more, but never allowed himself to return violence for violence. We hear of violence in our news, in our entertainment options, and more. We are anesthetized by it to the extent that we often do not see it. Jesus chose to see it, reject it, and model nonviolence. Pat shared the history of Pax Christi, begun by just a handful of committed peacemakers after World War II.

I offered a powerpoint on the process behind the movement and where that process was rooted, and then we gave a quick look at what various Pax Christi groups are working on statewide, as well as the various issues we have looked

at in past assemblies, retreats, and more. We also shared how Pax Christi collaborates with many other similar peace organizations, such as Mass Peace Action, Veterans for Peace, JustFaith, the Agape Community, the Boston area peace movement, and more.

There was a good representation of the parish at our meeting, from a number of youth preparing for confirmation to adults who want to be more informed and involved in relating Catholic social teachings to the challenges of today. Fr. Steve Josoma, their supportive pastor, remained with us the whole evening. We were impressed with their interest. The local Pax Christi group even gained some new members due to this presentation.



Pat and Rocco (photo from Rocco)

As a result, in my own humble and quiet way (tongue in cheek) I said to Pat that we need to take this dog and pony show on the road! So the dynamic duo is ready to engage any and every parish /school/ college that would be interested in getting to know Pax Christi and forming a local group. Pax Christi is a reputable Catholic peace group with support from many who are involved in peace education and the practice of nonviolence. Our rootedness in prayer and reflection is the unique gift that we bring to the peace community. Yet all too often Pax Christi is marginalized and suspect for many Catholics as a far left fringe group.

I will admit that many of our members are very vocal about what they believe, but it is a very focused group of disciples who use the method of "seeing, reflecting and acting" which Jesus taught the early disciples as we read in the Gospels, in order to transform our brokenness into New Life. Too many of our Christian brothers and sisters either miss or are afraid of looking at what is going on in our world, reflecting personally and in groups on what Scriptures and our Catholic tradition would have us understand that would lead to real action, not just reactions to the injustice and violence around us. Pax Christi groups work for systemic change that can build a better and more peaceful world, naming and rooting out the violence within and around us.

Our hope is that Pax Christi can be as prominent in every parish and school as groups like the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Societies, WINGS, service committees, etc. If you are part of a current Pax Christi group and would like Pat and me to assist you in hosting an information evening for your parish or school that could attract more members to your group, call us. If you are part of a parish or school that does not have a Pax Christi group, but you would like to start one, call us. We have 16 groups throughout the state of Massachusetts at the moment. We would like to double that number as soon as we can. If you are reading this newsletter, you already committed to peace as an individual. Let's work together to form some committed groups that can help make peace and nonviolence a strong pattern in our Church and society today. Call us.

-Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x., is co-chair of the PCMA board.

Update from Holy Cross Pax Christi

By Mary Kate Sebbly '20

As the only faith-based social justice organization on campus, the Holy Cross Chapter of Pax Christi has the unique privilege of advocating for a wide variety of issues as they relate to our faith and commitment to peace. Our mission is to educate and inform ourselves about issues of injustice around the world and, in turn, advocate for those marginalized voices both within our campus community and beyond.

Each week we host an hour-long meeting centered around a certain issue in which leaders present educational material that opens to a discussion. This past semester, we covered topics such as gun violence, environmental justice, poverty and homelessness, DACA



Fall Migrants event at Holy Cross (photo from Mary Kate Sebbly)

and immigration, and sexual misconduct on campus. Our hope is that members coalesce around one or two issues each year and invent ways to raise awareness on campus by programming with other student organizations.

This past fall, we coordinated with administrators and student leaders to host a “Gathering in Solidarity with Migrants” which was held on November 12, when the Supreme Court began hearing the first oral arguments about the status of DACA. The event lifted the voices of Holy Cross students, both past

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and present, who are protected under DACA, and their experiences living in fear of deportation. Pax Christi members also collected over 250 signatures on a “Statement in Solidarity with Migrants” that pledged support for not only DACA recipients, but all those affected by migration.

In November Pax Christi members could also attend the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington D.C., where they gathered with students from Jesuit high schools and universities across the nation for a conference centered on the theme of “Radical Hope, Prophetic Action.” Over the course of three days, students heard from keynote speakers such as Fr. James Martin, S.J., Marcia Chatelain, and Sr. Peggy O’Neill, S.C., then met with staff of Rep. Jim McGovern to advocate for issues discussed at the conference.

This semester, Pax Christi members will continue our weekly meetings and strategize new ways to advocate within our campus community. We will also continue serving the Worcester community with our monthly trips to the Mustard Seed soup kitchen, a Catholic Worker house that has served the Worcester community since 1972. We hope that through these actions, we fulfill our mission of becoming instruments of peace and justice both on the Hill and around the world.

-Mary Kate Sebbly '20 is co-chair of Pax Christi Holy Cross.

ECCO Protects Honduran Refugee

By Sr. Linda Bessom, SNDdeN

(On December 10, 2019, Pax Christi MA board member Sr. Linda wrote this letter to her fellow clergy members of ECCO,

the Essex County Community Organization)

Thanks to your unfailing support and Blanca Martinez’s unfailing faith and courage, yesterday Blanca was given a year-long stay of deportation! And YOU were central to making it happen. I want to share a grateful recount of what transpired and the role ECCO clergy played.



Blanca Martinez (front center) & ECCO clergy (photo from Sr.Linda, front left)

Yesterday Blanca had her ICE check-in to review her request for a stay of deportation after her asylum claim and its appeal had been denied. Many of us feared the worst, because ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] rarely grants stays these days and because Blanca has been saying for weeks she would rather die than go back to the abuse she faced in Honduras. Instead, she came out with the best outcome she could have hoped for. Here are some of the ways you made that happen.

First, there was your **presence**, yesterday and in previous visits, which has sent a loud message that our community cares about Blanca and is watching.

Second, Rev. Wendy [Von Courter] led **heroic advocacy efforts** (with help from Rev. Andre [Bennett], Rev. Joan [Amaral], Rev. Kelly [Weisman Asprooth-Jackson], and others) to mobilize the offices of Senators Warren and Markey, and Rep. Moulton. Even

after the offices had pronounced there was nothing more they could do, Rev. Wendy actually brought Blanca on Wednesday to their offices to say goodbye and offer one final, moving plea, and the office staff all agreed to try to intervene one more time.

Third, there was the **clergy letter and its miraculous delivery.**

Many of you signed the letter. Then, in what feels a lot like divine intervention, the delivery was postponed until the exact most opportune time. After the snow storm this week prevented [us] from actually delivering the clergy letter, despite two attempts, we decided just to send some clergy who were accompanying Blanca to deliver it themselves. So, yesterday morning, Fr. Frank [Cloherly] and Rev. Ian [Holland] entered the building and just asked to meet with ICE Deputy Director Todd Lyons. At first, they were roundly refused, but then they charmed the guards by establishing their Irish Catholic heritage (white male privilege put to good use?).

Soon enough, Fr. Frank and Rev. Ian were sent upstairs to Director Lyons himself, who reviewed the case, summoned Blanca, her lawyer, and Rev. Wendy, and then **pronounced that Blanca would get a one-year stay of deportation, which was the most ICE could legally give her.** He also advised on possible next steps to help Blanca's case.

“Say Something” & “A Hidden Life”

By Robert C. Broker

As a daughter once commented on years of parish sermons, “Why don't they say something?”

Terrence Malick does “say something” in his film about Franz Jagerstatter. I must admit that “saying something” in a movie is a stretch as I am hard of hearing and dependent on reading the text off the theater screen. Irrespective, the film was an experience that ‘tied me to my seat’ awaiting the foregone conclusion.

For decades, Franz Jagerstatter wandered in and out of Catholic periodicals, catching my fleeting attention. He seemed a lonely cause for beatification, being a married man and neither a bishop nor founder of a religious society. Better known were the actions of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran



August Diehl as Franz Jagerstatter in “A Hidden Life” (imdb.com)

pastor and theologian who in 1944 faced imprisonment and execution in Germany. Who was this Catholic layman, and who brought him forward for beatification? I looked to Terrence Malick's canvas to learn Franz's story after the film opened late in 2019.

Some past black and white movie dramas (i.e., *The Third Man*, 1949) were dark, where close shots or shadows bore the dread of the night and its characters. Wide screen color provided Malick with a panorama where he set the Alpine Mountains as the background for *A Hidden Life*. In the film, nature lingers in the higher peaks, along the green, rocky slopes, and within the dark waters flowing richly along their

ancient beds. The film thus offers a dynamic contrast between that Garden of Eden and the conundrums of Eve/Adam and their progeny.

We are immersed in a multi-hued landscape contrasted with the black and white characters of an intrepid empirical machine. We call this one “Nazi” to isolate it from other recent empires. Franz worked the hillside fields with his wife, Franziska, as rhythmically they cut the grass with scythes that needed repetitious sharpening. There was little automation along these steep hills in the late 1930's. The husband and wife effect a chorus of cooperation as they earn their daily bread with their labor slowed by the Angelus Bells of the parish church tower.

We see Franz loving and laboring during those tense years when Germany united around Adolph Hitler and rumors of war pressed Austria, still a neutral nation. Then, Franz feels the fall of the ax, as in 1938 Austria capitulates to Hitler's demands and Franz becomes wrapped into the new social/political reality.

Is he Adam's son, Seth, to be taken down by a human brother? No such reverie is portrayed, while the need for quiet commitment to an old faith sustains him. There are no political compatriots to press the resistance, no comrades in arms, no escape as in the musical *The Sound of Music*. There are no mother, priest, or bishop to support his religious commitment to oppose Adolph Hitler. Well, maybe a painter of saints or his wife Franziska. Franz carries within himself the awareness that he might be “called up” to military service.

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Pax Christi Spring Retreat

Saturday March 28, 2020

Mary Dooley Campus Center, ELMS College

Faculty Dining Room, 291 Springfield Street Chilcopee MA

Registration begins at 9:30am Program 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

For parking check out <https://www.elms.edu/campus-map/>



Joining Pax Christi MA in sponsoring this day are:



“Spiritual Resilience & Leadership in a Time of Climate Crisis”

In the face of ecological crisis, how do we maintain courage and hope? What spiritual practices and perspectives sustain us as we struggle to protect the web of life and to create a more just society? This retreat will explore a framework for the heart to help us become compassionate, prophetic leaders who are willing to take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires. Our time together will include presentations, guided meditation, group sharing, and space for solitary reflection and prayer.

Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is an Episcopal priest, author, and retreat leader who serves as Missioner for Creation Care for both the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and Mass. Conference, United Church of Christ. Rev. Margaret offers encouragement and guidance on creation care topics through articles, sermons and more on her website, www.RevivingCreation.org, which she calls a place "to rest and reflect, to learn and find encouragement."

Registration Form

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State _____ Phone/e-mail _____

Donation* \$25.00 (Lunch will be in café on one's own)

High School and College Students with ID are Free

I would like to be a Retreat Sponsor and will donate an additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to help defray the cost of the Retreat.

Mail Registration and check, made out to "Pax Christi MA" to:

Charles Gobron, 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760

*Scholarships available

www.paxchristima.org

For information: paxchristima@gmail.com

2020 Pax Christi Massachusetts Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2020

This award is given to an outstanding peacemaker who embodies the ideals of Pax Christi. She or he need not be a member of Pax Christi and may be a person as young as 16, or older. Nominations may be submitted by PC-MA members, teachers, campus ministers, parish pastoral leaders, youth ministers, family members or friends who have been inspired by the nominee.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2020.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email to: moran3@comcast.net)

Nominee's name/s _____
School, if applicable _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Social justice & peacemaking activities, volunteer involvement, etc. (attach, as needed)
Your name _____ Relationship to nominee _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

2020 Pax Christi Massachusetts John Leary Youth Peacemaker Award Nomination
To be awarded at the annual Pax Christi Massachusetts Assembly Fall 2020

This award is given to an outstanding young peacemaker who embodies the ideals of Pax Christi, as John Leary lived them. John was a Harvard University graduate who worked with PC Massachusetts co-founder Gordon Zahn at the Pax Christi Center on Conscience and War in Cambridge and died at age 24 while jogging to Haley House, a Catholic Worker House in Boston, during the summer of 1982.

Nominees for the John Leary Award need not be members of Pax Christi but should be no older than 24. Nominations may be submitted by PC-MA members, teachers, campus ministers, parish pastoral leaders, youth ministers, family members or friends who have been inspired by the nominee.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by September 1, 2020.
SEND TO: Mike Moran, 135 Shearer Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (or email to: moran3@comcast.net)

Nominee's name/s _____
School, if applicable _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Social justice & peacemaking activities, volunteer involvement, etc. (attach, as needed)
Your name _____ Relationship to nominee _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

..”A Hidden Life”

Continued from page 8

The letter comes. Franz obeys the call. Will he swear the oath to Adolph Hitler? Abruptly, the green/blue background moves to black and white.

The German, or possibly Austrian, officers bear all the refinement of civilized men who are immaculately dressed officials of the Nazi State. They work through precise legal processes and trials backed up by explicit recordkeeping as they try to move this misguided son of a mistaken Christian commitment off his course. Franz is alone. He refuses to take the oath. Harsh prison life fails to yield repentance. The judgement comes. The execution occurs. The morality play ends. The viewer may be unsettled, inspired, or angered.

Any fault in Terrence Malick’s film seems to be that the director “said something” about the cost of moral choices which in this case had to await later recognition in Franz’s beatification.

We find in 2 Maccabees 7 an account of Jewish resistance to King Antiochus’. The King’s enforcers were intent on bringing the culture of Hellenism to the Israelites and other peoples of the mid-East, with any retrograde resistance to be met by war, torture, and fire. Does that story not repeat itself in our own day.

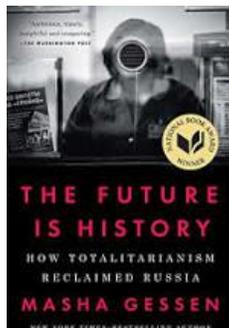
-Bob Broker is a Massachusetts Pax Christi member.

MetroWest Pax Christi 2020 Plans

By Jan Leary

We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Natick Public Library. Our early 2020 meetings are as follows:

***January/February:** In-depth consideration of the divisiveness which is currently happening in our country, based on two recent articles: Thomas Reese, SJ’s “Four Catholic Solutions to Toxic Politics” (National Catholic Reporter, 1/10/20); and Ezra Klein’s “Why We’re Polarized” (NY Times, 1/24/20) (led by Louise Bolles)



***March:** Travels in Russia and two books by Masha Gessen: *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*; and *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia* (Janet Jacobowski)

***April:** Racism experienced growing up in the South during the Civil Rights Movement protests; consideration of the present day anti-racism movement (led by Fan Pope)

***June:** questions for discussion about the work of the Nuns On the Bus (led by Faith Madzar).

If you’d like to join us, please email us ahead of time at metrowestpaxchristi@comcast.net or janleary@aol.com

-Jan Leary coordinates the MetroWest Pax Christi group.

Fatima Shrine Pax Christi Update

By Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

We have begun learning about the roots and complexities of the Iran conflict through a study guide provided by the Catalyst Project: No war - No sanctions. It is a four part study of the history of the area, the roots of the conflict, and the present situations. We are spending one or two sessions per section, which will take us through to the summer.

Pax Christi MA Board of Directors 2019-2020

Co-Coordinator: Pat Ferrone 238 Harris Avenue Needham MA 02492 781-752-9722 patferrone@rcm.org	Secretary: Jeanne Allen 10 Sutton Place Easthampton MA 01027 413-270-5880 (email page 12)
Treasurer: Charles Gobron 6 Bolser Avenue Natick, MA 01760 774-270-2442 cgobron@aol.com	Newsletter Editor: Mike Moran 135 Shearer Street Palmer, MA 01069 413-283-5716 (email page 12)
OTHER BOARD MEMBERS: Brian Ashmankas (Millbury); Nancy Carapezza (Wayland); Irene Desharnais (Jamaica Plain); Phil Harak (Southampton); Sue Malone (Westborough); Sally Markey (Springfield); Rose Morrissey (Westborough); Father Rocco Puopolo, s.x. (Holliston), Co-Coordinator (see contact info under Fatima on page 12). Quarterly Board meetings are held in the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College in Worcester at 10 AM and are open to all PCMA members. The next meetings will be held on March 14 and June 13, 2020.	

Local Groups

Berkshire P.C.

Carolyn Zablonty
P.O. Box 14
Mill River, MA 01244
berkshire.pax.christi@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Beverly P.C.

Karen Watkins
(978) 524-0029
bluelight-1@live.com
Sr. Linda Bessom, SNDdeN
(857) 236-1370
linda.bessom@sndden.org
Mtgs 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
St. Mary's Convent

Boston (Citywide) P.C.

Christina Abbey
Paulist Center, 5 Park St
Boston, MA
(781) 286-5004
LNCabbey2004@yahoo.com
Mtgs 1st Wednesday, 1-3 PM

Cape Cod P.C.

Edouard & Francoise Rocher
77 Old Post Road
Centerville, MA 02632
(508) 771-6737
paxchristi-cc@comcast.net
Our Lady of Victory
Centerville, MA 02632
Contact for meeting info

Central Mass P.C./Our Lady of Guadalupe P.C. (MCI Shirley prison chapter)

Roger & Charlotte Stanley
55 Pleasant Street
Berlin, MA 01503-1610
cstanley041258@verizon.net

St. Rose of Lima Parish
Northborough, MA 01532
Contact for meeting info

Fatima Shrine P.C.

Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.
101 Summer Street
Holliston, MA 01746
(202) 997-8049
frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 4:00 PM
Upper Room

Holy Cross College P.C.

1 College St, Box 16-A
Worcester, MA 01610
Marty Kelly
(508) 793-2617
mkelly@holycross.edu
Meetings and activities geared to
college calendar

Holy Cross Parish P.C.

221 Plumtree Road
Springfield, MA 01118
Marilyn Paul-Lewis
(413)739-3278
parishsocialministry@gmail.com
Contact for meeting info

Metro West P.C.

Membership info: Faith
fmadzar@gmail.com
Steadfast Hope info: Jan
peacejpl@comcast.net
Mtgs 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 PM
Natick Public Library

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette P.C.

Sheila Matthews
199 Maple Street
Somerset, MA 02726
508-674-8220

sheilmatthews@aol.com
Mtgs 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Chapel of Reconciliation

Rhode Island P.C.

Bill Waters
(401) 438-6612
wjtwj157@gmail.com
Fr. Ray Tetrault
(401) 374-5036
St. Peter's Church
Lower level
350 Fair Street
Warwick, RI 02888
Mtgs last Sunday, 6:00 PM

St. John's Prep P.C.

St. John's Preparatory School
72 Spring Street
Danvers, MA 01923
Bill Mackinson
978-774-1057
wmackinson@stjohnsprep.org
Prayer for Peace, Tuesday
mornings, 7:45-8:00 AM

St. Susanna Parish P.C.

Pat Ferrone
262 Needham Street
Dedham, MA 02026
781-752-9722
parferrone@rcm.com
Contact for meeting info

Western Mass P.C.

Jeanne Allen
10 Sutton Place
Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 270-5880
jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org
Mtgs 2nd Friday, 7:00 PM
Elms College, Chicopee

If you belong to a Pax Christi group that is not listed above, please let us know so we can add it to our list. If any information above is incorrect, or if you would like to be added to a list of Pax Christi "friends" and receive current messages from the Board, please email changes or additions to Mike Moran: moran3@comcast.net

Pax Christi Massachusetts
6 Bolser Avenue
Natick, MA 01760
paxchristima@gmail.com
www.paxchristima.org