

Pax Christi USA

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT



in New York in conjunction with the NPT Review Conference. An Interfaith Prayer Service, conference, and march for a nuclear weapons free world are scheduled for May 1-3 in New York. Included on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter is a petition to President Obama calling for him to act on his promise to lead the world to a nuclear weapons free future. Please share this petition in your communities, schools, and parishes over the next weeks and months, and watch our Website for important updates, resources, and action suggestions.

Our sisters and brothers in Iraq face a critical period over the next months leading to the planned withdrawal of U.S. troops in the summer. At the same time, the ill-conceived escalation of the war in Afghanistan will pose new challenges to our efforts to bring peace to that war-torn region. As we move into the Lenten season, we will once again focus our prayer, study, and action on ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As Jean Stokan and Scott Wright write in their Lenten reflection booklet, "From our country's dependence on military might, to the glorification of violence in movies and pop culture, this Lent can be a time to pause and reflect on what is at stake. It will take much work so that the sins of our country, and of our culture, can be redeemed. If we are to chart a new path for our country, we need to build our movements for justice and peace much broader."

With the collapse of the financial sector in the fall of 2008, and the already terrible economy for months prior to that, Pax Christi USA made some very difficult but necessary cuts in our budget and staff size going into 2009. I am happy to report that with your help we ended 2009 on budget and are now in a very good position going into 2010. As you know, Pax Christi receives no money from the government or the Church but rather relies on members like you for our financial resources. Those resources allow us to provide the ongoing

prayer, study, and action items on which so many rely. They also provide the needed support to engage the government and Church on critical issues of social justice and peace. Pax Christi members, like you, do the important education and advocacy work for social transformation while, at the same time, committing to personal transformation that deepens our communal discipleship journey on the path of the nonviolent Jesus. So I ask you today to prayerfully consider an additional gift to PCUSA beyond your regular membership dues to ensure that 2010 will be a year of rebirth and revitalization for Pax Christi USA. Simply fill out the enclosed Be Not Afraid slip and return it with your tax-deductible contribution today. You can also give through our secure Website or join our Sustainers program that authorizes a recurring donation monthly on your credit card or checking account. You can do this for as little as \$10 a month, and you can stop it at any time. These Sustainer memberships provide a critical source of regular income in support of Pax Christi USA's wide range of programs and initiatives. As always, I thank you in advance for your ongoing and generous financial support and for your commitment to building the peace of Christ.

Each new year offers endless possibilities for building that peace, and each year presents new challenges to meet. I often hear from members that Pax Christi is so much more than an organization—it's a lifestyle. It's a commitment to journey together through all the opportunities and a joining together to meet all the challenges. I am truly honored to walk with you on this important and life-giving journey. May the peace of Christ be with you in all you do this year!

In peace,

Dave Robinson, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

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PEACEMAKING: Day by Day

One's actions are a part of one's existence. . . One feels it a duty to act, and whatever comes, one does it—that's all—a very simple thing. I feel the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance and meaning.

- Pablo Casals

* This quote and hundreds more are available in Pax Christi USA's *Peacemaking Day by Day*, Volume I. To order your copy, visit our Website, www.paxchristiusa.org.

Greetings of peace and blessings in the New Year! The heartbreaking images from Haiti fill our thoughts and prayers. The devastated island will need our solidarity and accompaniment more than ever over the coming months and years. Focus must be maintained both on alleviating the suffering from the earthquake but also on ensuring that the international community, and particularly the United States, commits to rebuilding the shattered infrastructure and the vital institutions necessary for the Haitian people to emerge from this tragedy with a new chance to live in dignity. This will not be easy. As we continue to witness in New Orleans, rebuilding the institutions—the Church, the government, the health care system, education system, and civil society, to name but a few—takes a long-term commitment and requires the participation of the affected communities. Pax Christi USA remains committed to this process. Already, Bishop Tom Gumbleton will lead a small delegation of health-care professionals to visit Klinik Sen Michel, which he established at Fr. Gérard Jean-Juste's parish in Port-au-Prince in 2004. Pax Christi USA is encouraging that donations be sent directly to Bishop Gumbleton to support the relief and reconstruction efforts of Klinik Sen Michel. Visit our Website for details and for regular updates on the situation and how you can help.

It has been an exciting first month for Pax Christi USA this year. I am very happy to report that we have hired a Director of our Washington, DC, office, and she is no stranger to PCUSA. Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, began her work on the national staff

in mid-January. Sr. Dianna is the founder and long-time Executive Director of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). After stepping down from that position and taking a sabbatical year, she assumes leadership of our Washington, DC, office and our new Internship/Formation Program. Three outstanding young adults were chosen to help us establish this program which will blend program work, spiritual formation, and intentional community living into a comprehensive manifestation of Pax Christi's values and mission in our nation's capital. Read more about our interns and Sr. Dianna on pages 3-4.

In a few short months most of the nations of the world will gather in New York for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). At the core of the NPT is the commitment by the nuclear weapons states to eliminate their immoral arsenals in exchange for all other nations foregoing their own nuclear weapons development. Under the Bush Administration, the NPT nearly collapsed as the United States reneged on all promises made in prior Review Conferences and pushed ahead with a massive reinvestment in its nuclear arsenal under the Complex Transformation program. Pax Christi USA's New Moment for Nuclear Disarmament Campaign (visit www.paxchristiusa.org and click on the link on the right-hand side of the page) provides resources and organizing tools for you and your group to advocate and raise awareness regarding the critical need to end the nuclear weapons threat. Additionally, Pax Christi USA is cosponsoring several events

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND PLACE CHANGE!

National Conference on Catholic Peacemaking

July 16-18, 2010

Rosemont Hotel at O'Hare (5550 N. River Road; Rosemont, IL)

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Visit www.paxchristiusa.org for more educational and spiritual resources for peace.

**PAX CHRISTI
USA**

**HAITI EARTHQUAKE CRISIS:
PAX CHRISTI USA RESPONDS**

Pax Christi USA's response to the Haitian earthquake was immediate and focused. Our most important task was locating our colleagues in Pax Christi Haiti and ascertaining their safety. We were happy to report that, in the five days immediately following the earthquake, we were able to reach each of the staff of Pax Christi Haiti and found that all were okay and assisting in relief efforts. Less than 24 hours following the quake, Pax Christi USA released a statement calling for generous and immediate relief efforts, but also calling for this moment to mark a turning point in the relations between the United States and our neighbor to the south. We offered a variety of actions for our members to take, including supporting the efforts of Klinik Sen Michel, a medical clinic set up initially by Pax Christi USA's founding bishop-president, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, where some Pax Christi Haiti staff work. For full information about our efforts on behalf of our sisters and brothers in Haiti, including supporting Klinik Sen Michel, please visit our Website, www.paxchristiusa.org.

**PAX CHRISTI USA
STATEMENT
ON HAITIAN
EARTHQUAKE
(JANUARY 13, 2010)**

Our hearts are broken by the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Haiti yesterday. Pax Christi USA expresses our deepest sympathy and grief for our Haitian sisters and brothers affected by this disaster. We are especially concerned for our colleagues with Pax Christi Haiti and their families. As of Wednesday afternoon, their safety and whereabouts were still unknown. We



Children in Pax Christi Haiti's Education and Soccer Program, 2008

pray for them and for all Haitians who have experienced this devastation. Their suffering calls us to action, and many in our movement are already responding to the call for volunteer relief workers and donations for emergency relief efforts.

Pax Christi USA applauds the U.S. administration's timely response to this humanitarian emergency. President Obama's pledged support and commitments to Haiti, as well as former President Bill Clinton and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's preliminary visit, are essential initial steps to providing hope to the Haitian people. Yet, massive and sustained efforts will be key to not only providing disaster relief but to addressing the broader and long-ignored institutional and structural needs of the people of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

We call for a monumental and unprecedented effort from President Obama's administration to generously provide for the immediate relief efforts needed in Haiti, while also committing to a partnership with nongovernmental organizations and the Haitian government to assure the rebuilding and reconstruction of civil society and infrastructure that can lead to a new Haiti. Pax Christi encourages the U.S. to take

this opportunity to embark on a bold, new policy toward Haiti, employing a long-term, collaborative approach and deferring to the advice and expertise of Haitians and in-country actors who, out of love for Haiti, have long struggled in solidarity alongside the Haitian people.

From the chaos of this disaster, let a new relationship between the U.S. and Haiti be born, with new policies rooted in compassion and respect for our sister to the south.

**HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT THROUGH
PAX CHRISTI USA'S BISHOP THOMAS GUMBLETON**
Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, founding Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA, helped to institute a clinic in Haiti several years ago. As members of Pax Christi USA continue to discern how to help with the earthquake in Haiti, we recommend that you consider supporting both short-term and long-

term relief for Haitians by giving to Bishop Gumbleton's clinic, Klinik Sen Michel.

Bishop Gumbleton has asked that checks for the clinic be made out to "Fonkoze-USA" with "Klinik Sen Michel" in the memo line and be sent directly to him at:

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton
4800 Grand River Avenue; Detroit, MI 48208

**LIVING AS RESURRECTED BEINGS IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD'S CROSSES:
REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 7**

By Jean Stokan and Scott Wright

Today's readings begin with that great story from Exodus, when God tells Moses: "I have seen the misery of my people. . . . I have heard their cry. . . . I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them" (3:7-8). It is the great story of liberation, the call of Moses to lead his people out of slavery into the Promised Land overflowing with milk and honey. A story that gives hope today to people in bondage: Yes, God knows our sufferings; yes, God will come down to deliver us!

Yet there is more to this story than a message of liberation. In fact, the story is really about conversion, preparing ourselves for a mission, receiving God's call to us at this moment of our lives: "Take off your shoes, for the place where you stand is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

Where do we find holy ground today? We do not have to look very far. Jon Sobrino reminded people at the end of the bloody war in El Salvador that the entire country was holy ground, because "wherever great suffering and great love converge, we are standing on holy ground."

Archbishop Romero spoke of Lent as "that difficult complex of cross and victory." The road to resurrection passes through the way of the cross: "Just as Christ will flourish in an Easter of unending resurrection, so it is necessary also to accompany Him in Lent, in a Holy Week that is cross, sacrifice, martyrdom."

In today's Gospel, the parable of the barren fig tree also speaks to us of conversion. Here the image is not taken from history, but from nature: bearing fruit.

We know already the goal to which we are called. When we plant the seed and till the soil, we can already imagine the flower and the fruit that will soon emerge. But the fruit is not only that which comes at the end; it is already present, hidden in the seed and in our humble efforts to nurture the seed to fruition.

So, too, the resurrection is not only that which comes at the end of the way of the cross; rather, we are called to live as resurrected beings in the midst of the world's crosses. We are called to accompany those who are poor or strangers in our midst, those who are sick or in prison, those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, Christ hidden as our sister and brother in those who are poor. And we are called, too, to take down from the cross those who are crucified in today's world.

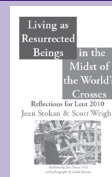
The great need today is for Christians who are active and critical, who don't accept situations without analyzing them inwardly and deeply. We no longer want masses of people like those who have been trifled with for so long. We want persons like fruitful fig trees who can say yes to justice and no to injustice and can make use of the precious gift of life, regardless of the circumstances.

-Archbishop Oscar Romero

Lenten Reflection Booklet

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Jean Stokan and Scott Wright's daily reflection booklet, *Living as Resurrected Beings in the Midst of the World's Crosses*, is available online at www.paxchristiusa.org.

With photos by Linda Panetta. \$3 plus s/h; discounts for 10 or more.



Si una arma nuclear estalla en una ciudad—sea Nueva York o Moscú, Islamabad o Mumbai, Tokio o Tel Aviv, París o Praga—la podría matar a cientos de miles de personas. Y sin importa en donde ocurre, no hay ningun fin a las consecuencias—para nuestra seguridad global, nuestra vigilancia, nuestra sociedad, nuestra economía, nuestra supervivencia última.

- el Presidente Barack Obama, Praga, el 5 de abril, 2009

Estimado Presidente Barack Obama,

Le aplaudimos sinceramente por declarar en Praga, “Manifiesto claramente y con convicción el compromiso de America buscar la paz y la seguridad de un mundo sin armas nucleares.” Le elogiamos por su reconocimiento valeroso e histórico que “como el único poder nuclear que ha usado una arma nuclear, los Estados Unidos tiene una responsabilidad moral de ponerse en acción.” Le llamamos a ser válido a eso acuerdo y llevar a cabo esa responsabilidad por anunciar en la Conferencia de revisión del tratado de no proliferación nuclear de 2010 su iniciación de negociaciones multilaterales y de buena fe, en un acuerdo internacional a abolir armas nucleares, ¡dentro de nuestro curso de vida! ¡Si nos podemos!

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Su firma estará entre millones en esta petición e otras semejantes de todas las partes del mundo, presentadas en mayo en la Conferencia de revisión del tratado de no proliferación nuclear en las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York. Esta petición también estará entregada al Presidente Obama. Por favor, cópiala y circúlala. Patrocinado por United for Peace and Justice.

Entrega las peticiones firmadas a:

Peace Action 1100 Wayne Ave, Suite 1020, Silver Spring, MD 20910

This January, Pax Christi USA began a new internship program based out of our Washington, DC, office. The program is one year and is built around a commitment to professional work in our faith-based peace and justice organization, the experience of living in intentional community, and the opportunity for personal and spiritual formation. In addition to programmatic work, the interns share a home generously offered for Pax Christi USA's program by Pax Christi International Co-President Marie Dennis. The interns will work with us in a variety of capacities, as well as serve as leaders in our commitment to growing our movement among young adults. We are proud to introduce you to our first class of interns in the program: Beth Kenyon, Manuel Padilla, and Amy Watts. We asked each of them to write a few words sharing a little about themselves. Send notes of welcome to the members of this year's internship program to info@paxchristiusa.org.



Beth, Amy, and Manuel, Witness Against Torture action, January 2010

BETH KENYON: My name is Beth Kenyon, and I am originally from New York State. I studied at the University of Rochester and received my degree in Political Science and Spanish in 2008. In 2009, I moved to Brussels, Belgium, for a year-long internship with Pax Christi International. I am very excited to continue to work within the Pax Christi family and I hope that my experience with the International Secretariat will add to my ability to work effectively within this new internship.

Some of the areas in which I will be working include the newly created Pax Christi USA Africa Task Force, Latin America issues, and immigration. I am very excited about continuing my interest in these topics and learning new skills and information. I hope this year will be a year of personal and spiritual growth. I am looking forward to becoming a part of the NGO community in Washington, DC, and the movement for justice and peace throughout the United States.

MANUEL PADILLA: I grew up in Dallas, Oregon, and obtained my B.A. in Philosophy from Portland State University in 2001. In 2003, I converted to Catholicism and between 2004 and 2007 lived in South Korea and China teaching English. In 2007, I started my Master's degree at the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace, which founded the International Master in Peace, Conflict and Development Studies at Universitat Jaume I in Castellón, Spain. I completed my M.Phil. in September of 2009.

I bring a linguistic-philosophic lens and an interest in how this relates to culture and domestic/international policy, as well as an interest in conflict analysis and transformation. I hope to learn how to effectively transform theoretical knowledge into concrete, practical action through writing, meeting with others, building skills in the logistical planning needed in NGOs, and engaging in grassroots action and organizing. For me, the human contact, the learning and exposure, and the seeing of Christ in others is what ultimately sustains me in my efforts for the peace process.

AMY WATTS: I completed my undergraduate studies at Ohio Wesleyan University in Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology and most recently returned from Spain upon completing a Master's degree in Peace, Conflict, and Development Studies at Universitat Jaume I, a program that holds the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace. Between studies, I participated in a year of service with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, spent two years as a research assistant at the San Francisco Veterans Hospital (where I worked with depressed veterans), and interned with the Alternatives to Violence Project-California.

I look forward to contributing to the programmatic and organizing work of Pax Christi USA and to learning from the wealth of experience and knowledge of its members and allies. I am also eager to further explore the concepts of intentional community, prayer, and simplicity within the internship house.

Meet Pax Christi USA's New Staff

Introducing Sr. Dianna Ortiz,
New Director of Pax Christi USA's Washington, DC, Office

On January 14, Pax Christi USA hired Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, as the new director of our Washington, DC, office. Sr. Dianna is well-known to the Pax Christi family as a long-time member and the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace recipient in 2000. We are thrilled and honored to have her passion and expertise in leading our office in Washington, DC. A short introduction of Sr. Dianna follows.

Sister Dianna Ortiz was raised in New Mexico. As a child, she bore witness to the oppression and the racism that is part of the history of the Southwest. In this awareness was planted the first of many seeds leading to her commitment to work for Gospel justice.

After joining the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Dianna fulfilled a long-time dream to be a missionary. In 1987, she traveled to the highlands of Guatemala to live among the Mayan people and to teach the children of San Miguel Acatan. There, she hoped to spend the rest of her life. That dream was short-lived, as was the dream of democracy for the Guatemalan people.

Shortly after arriving, Dianna began to receive death threats, and on the morning of November 2, 1989, she was forced into a world only the tortured can fully comprehend. She was abducted and brutally tortured by members of the Guatemalan security forces acting under the supervision of an American. It was in a dark clandestine prison that Dianna joined the long litany of the tortured in Guatemala.

Eventually taken from the prison by the American, she escaped. Shortly thereafter, a U.S. official warned that speaking of the American would result in serious consequences for her. However, she did speak out, and both the Guatemalan and U.S. governments set out to discredit her and hide the role of U.S. involvement in torture in Guatemala.



In 1996, in an effort to have the truth finally revealed, Dianna conducted a five-week vigil in front of the White House, calling for the release of all relevant documents. Although the identity of the American remains hidden, she was successful in securing the release of a document admitting that torture was taught at the School of the Americas.

While held by her torturers and listening to the screams of those also being tortured, Dianna made a promise to those who were in the clandestine prison with her that if she survived, she would tell the world what she both saw and heard there. She sought to fulfill her promise by working on behalf of the "disappeared" and murdered of Guatemala while working with the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA. In 1998, Dianna founded the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC), an organization of survivors from countries around the world. She dedicated TASSC to supporting survivors, whatever their needs, and to working for the abolition of torture wherever it is practiced. Dianna served as the organization's director for ten years.

Sr. Dianna Ortiz has received several honorary doctorates and numerous awards. She has spoken before a wide variety of audiences as well as offered testimony before Congress on several occasions. She has authored a number of articles and chapters in edited works. Her autobiography is entitled *The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth* (Orbis Books, 2002).

To this day, Dianna remains shackled to the promise of speaking truth to those in power. She is especially pleased that this phase of her life will be spent with a movement she so admires.

Notes of welcome to Sr. Dianna Ortiz can be directed to the Pax Christi USA email account, info@paxchristiusa.org.

Petition to President Obama
for Nuclear Weapons Abolition Action

One nuclear weapon exploded in one city—be it New York or Moscow, Islamabad or Mumbai, Tokyo or Tel Aviv, Paris or Prague—could kill hundreds of thousands of people. And no matter where it happens, there is no end to what the consequences might be—for our global safety, our security, our society, our economy, to our ultimate survival.

- President Barack Obama, Prague, April 5, 2009

Dear President Obama,

We wholeheartedly applaud you for declaring in Prague, "I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons." We commend you for your courageous and historic recognition that "as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act." We call on you to make good on that commitment and fulfill that responsibility by announcing at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference your initiation of good faith multilateral negotiations on an international agreement to abolish nuclear weapons, *within our lifetimes! Yes we can!!*

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____
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Your signature will be among millions on this and similar petitions from around the world presented at the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in New York. This U.S. petition will also be delivered to President Obama. Please copy and circulate. Sponsored by United for Peace and Justice.

Return signed petition forms to:
Peace Action 1100 Wayne Ave, Suite 1020, Silver Spring, MD 20910