

# Pax Christi USA



***"Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith."***

**- The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1983**



**National Catholic Peace Movement  
www.paxchristiusa.org**

## Our History

In 1945, a small group of people in France met regularly to pray for peace. What kept them coming together was their experience of an agonizing fact: French and German Catholics, who professed the same faith and celebrated the same Eucharist, had killed one another by the millions in the 20th century. That situation could hardly be the will of God. So they prayed for forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace.

After the war, Pax Christi centers were established in France and Germany; by the 1950s the movement had spread to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. Pax Christi began in the United States in 1972, at the initiative of a small group of prominent U.S. Catholics, mostly lay people.

## Brothers and Sisters All

Begun in 1999, Brothers and Sisters All is a 20-year initiative to transform Pax Christi USA into an anti-racist, multicultural Catholic peace and justice movement and to elevate and celebrate the rich diverse membership of the Catholic Church. Pax Christi USA seeks to embrace an anti-racist identity and to do all its work from an anti-racist perspective, in the conviction that personal and systemic racism perpetuates violence in our communities and results in deep spiritual and social brokenness.

This transformation is accomplished through intentional relationships and full participation across cultural communities by:

- Organizational structures that foster mutual respect and dialogue and which create accountability to people of color
- Policies which affirm the dignity and utilize the talents of every person
- Practices which hold multiple and at times conflicting perspectives in creative tension
- Decision-making processes which depend on and incorporate the multi-cultural identity that is the Church, the Body of Christ.

## General Membership Contribution

I believe that "peace is possible" and want to join Pax Christi USA:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**(If you would like to join the "Sustainers' Circle," please fill out the previous panel.)**

The regular membership fee for Pax Christi USA is \$35 a 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:

\_\_\_\_\$35 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$500\_\_\_\_other

At this time I can only contribute \_\_\_\_\_.  
MC/Visa \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVN \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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.
- \_\_\_\_ I would like information on making a will/bequest.
- \_\_\_\_ I would like to receive a publications catalog.
- \_\_\_\_ Please do not give my e-mail or phone number to local Pax Christi group leaders.



**Send this form to:**  
Pax Christi USA  
1225 Otis Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20017  
202-635-2741  
Fax: 202-832-9494  
info@paxchristiusa.org  
www.paxchristiusa.org

## Sustainers' Circle for Peace with Justice

More than ever, we need people who are willing and able to sustain the work for peace with justice over the long haul. Pax Christi USA's "Sustainers' Circle" allows you to make safe and convenient monthly donations directly through your credit card. By committing to becoming a Sustainer, you provide Pax Christi USA with important monthly support on which we rely, you help us to be more eco-friendly (less paperwork equals more trees), and you help to build the base from which to make our work even more prophetic, effective, and stronger.

Use the form below or go to our Web site to set up a monthly contribution by credit card.

**Please select a monthly donation amount:**

\_\_\_\_ \$10                      \_\_\_\_ \$20  
\_\_\_\_ \$50                      \_\_\_\_ \$100  
\$ \_\_\_\_ other (\$10 minimum)

This payment will repeat monthly on an ongoing basis. You may cancel at any time.

MC/Visa \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVN \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Purpose

Pax Christi USA strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation.

Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Pax Christi USA is a section of Pax Christi International, which has representation status at the United Nations in New York and Vienna, the UN Human Rights Commission and Sub-Commission in Geneva, UNESCO in Paris, and UNICEF in New York.



*PAX CHRISTI USA, founded in 1972, works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.*

*“Movements like yours are precious. They help draw people’s attention to the violence which shatters the harmony between human beings which is at the heart of creation. They help to develop conscience, so that justice and the search for the common good can prevail in the relations between individuals and peoples. These are the foundations for lasting peace.”*

*- Pope John Paul II,  
speaking to members of Pax Christi during  
a delegation to the Vatican, May 1995*

## Who We Are

Pax Christi USA is a national Catholic peace and justice movement reaching over one half-million U.S. Catholics. Our membership includes: 650 religious communities; 800 parishes; 130 bishops; 400 Pax Christi local and campus groups; 20 regions that coordinate activities in their geographic areas; and tens of thousands of individual members.

## Local and Regional Groups

Pax Christi local groups offer opportunities to join with others in a community setting to deepen their understanding of the gospel call to peace and justice. Pax Christi USA’s nearly 400 local chapters meet regularly in neighborhoods, parishes, religious congregations, high schools, and on college campuses to pray, study, and act for peace with justice on local, national, and global issues.

## Our Priorities

- Spirituality of Nonviolence and Peacemaking
- Disarmament, Demilitarization, and Reconciliation with Justice
- Economic and Interracial Justice in the United States
- Human Rights and Global Restoration

## The Work

### of Pax Christi USA

PCUSA uses a model of prayer, study, and action to work for justice and peace and promotes the importance of understanding the root causes of injustice and violence.

PCUSA members work in many ways:

- implementing a conflict resolution program in a local high school
- holding a prayer vigil outside a prison where an execution is taking place
- preparing an action alert calling for an end to the use of torture
- hosting a parish program on the "war on immigrants"
- joining a coalition for affordable housing
- creating an educational resource about environmental destruction
- writing letters to elected officials about human rights abuses in Haiti or Colombia
- teaching an anti-racism workshop



*PAX CHRISTI USA focuses on economic & interracial justice, human rights & global restoration, the spirituality of nonviolence, and disarmament issues.*

- writing Prayers of the Faithful that lift up the call to Christian nonviolence
- working in interfaith partnerships on peace and justice initiatives.

## Peace Education Resources

PCUSA offers many resources for prayer, study, and action. Through resources like our newsmagazine, the *Catholic Peace Voice*, and our Web site, members can get a glimpse of the breadth and depth of Pax Christi. We also publish an e-mail digest of action alerts and information on domestic and international issues. We produce books, pamphlets, resource packets, prayer cards, and other materials for personal and group use.

*To view current campaigns and initiatives in Pax Christi USA's priority areas, or to find out how you can take action, please visit our Web site at [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).*