

Pax Christi USA welcomes you to...

ENDURING HOPE

500 years of prophetic resistance to military empire

Opening Music (led by Jon Fromer)

Welcome: Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, Chair of the Pax Christi USA National Council

Opening Prayer (led by Judith Kelly, Pax Christi Metro D.C.-Baltimore)

Leader: Tonight we gather to mark 500 years of prophetic resistance to military empire. We know that the work we do was begun long before we began to walk this path, and that it will be carried by others long after we have done our part. We stand in a line of prophets and martyrs, activists and advocates who have witnessed to the power of justice in the face of oppression. We remember all those who embraced peace and brought light into the darkness of repression, injustice and war. We have learned from their ways, and we pledge ourselves to continue their path, to be bearers of truth and makers of peace as we keep their light and their passion for truth alive in our world.

Reader: A reading from the gospel of Matthew

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Response: Prophets of a future not our own

Leader: It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

ALL: The kin-dom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

Leader: We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

ALL: Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kin-dom always lies beyond us.

Leader: No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.

ALL: No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.

Leader: No program accomplishes totally the church's mission.

ALL: No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

Leader: This is what we are about. We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

ALL: We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

Leader: We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

- ALL: It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.
- Leader: We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
- ALL: We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

Speakers:

- **Jean Stokan**, Director of the Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- **Scott Wright**, Pax Christi USA National Council member and author of Oscar Romero and the Communion of Saints
- **Fr. Jim Barnett, OP**, one of the original 13 fasters at the gates of the SOA in 1990
- **Nelly de la Cid**, Honduran activist and Mercy Associate

Collection to support the work of Pax Christi USA: Jack McHale, Treasurer of Pax Christi USA National Council

*We ask that you please give as much as you are able in support of the work of Pax Christi USA. **Checks can be made out to Pax Christi USA.** Baskets will be circulated for the collection. **We thank you for your generosity.***

Questions and Answers with our Speakers

Final Comments

Closing Prayer

Leader: Our prayer is taken from Jon Sobrino's *Theology of Christian Solidarity*.

Solidarity is another name for the kind of love that moves feet, hands, hearts, material goods, assistance, and sacrifice toward the pain, danger, misfortune, disaster, repression or death of other persons or a whole people. The aim is to share with them and help them rise up, become free, claim justice, rebuild...

ALL: God is love, God stands in solidarity, God is solidarity. Where there is solidarity, there is God.

Closing Music (led by Jon Fromer)

Pax Christi USA wishes to thank all of the people who made this program possible this evening. We especially thank each of our speakers (Fr. Jim, Nelly, Scott and Jean), Jon Fromer (for his wonderful music and spirit!), and the staff of SOA Watch for their adept coordination of this event and the entire weekend. We also thank all of you for your participation tonight and for your ongoing witness for peace and justice!

SAVE THE DATE: Pax Christi USA's national conference will take place July 20-22 in Washington, D.C. at the Catholic University of America. More information will be available soon!

TWO FOR ONE GIFT MEMBERSHIPS: Join Pax Christi USA today and get a free one-year gift membership for a family member, friend, co-worker, etc. Please visit our sales table in the back to take advantage of this offer! Makes a great Christmas gift!

SPECIAL SALES TABLE: We encourage you to peruse our sales table located in the back of the room. We have available this year's Advent reflection booklet, our new DVD on the Sakala project with Pax Christi Haiti, and more!

Visit us at www.paxchristiusa.org