



**I Want To Join Pax Christi USA
and Help Make A Difference!**

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.

I support Pax Christi USA's Statement of Purpose and wish to become a member.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
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Enclosed is my membership donation of
 ___\$50 ___\$35 ___\$75 ___\$100

At this time I can only contribute \$ _____

Payment:
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Please send me:
 ___ Information about joining a local group
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***The Muslim, Jewish, Christian
Prayer for Peace***

from Pax Christi USA
and the Fellowship of Reconciliation

*O God, you are the source
of life and peace.
Praised be your name forever.
We know it is you who turn
our minds to thoughts of peace.
Hear our prayer in this time of war.*

*Your power changes hearts.
Muslims, Christians, and Jews remember,
and profoundly affirm,
that they are followers of the one God,
children of Abraham,
brothers and sisters;
enemies begin to speak to one another;
those who were estranged
join hands in friendship;
nations seek the way of peace together.*

*Strengthen our resolve to give witness to
these truths by the way we live.*

*Give to us:
Understanding that puts an end to strife;
Mercy that quenches hatred; and
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.*

*Empower all people
to live in your law of love.*

Amen.

* This prayer is available as a prayer card from Pax Christi USA. Order online at www.paxchristiusa.org, by email at sales@paxchristiusa.org or call 814-453-4955, ext. 231.

ACTION SUGGESTIONS

Pray for a peaceful resolution to violence around the world. Pray especially for an end to the war in Afghanistan. Incorporate in your prayer, the prayer in this brochure.

Promote interfaith dialogue within your community. Host a day of dialogue between your church and your local mosque. Plan a joint service project with members from different faith congregations.

Make copies of this brochure or Pax Christi USA's statement on the tenth anniversary of 9/11 (online at www.paxchristiusa.org) and share them with your pastor as a possible touchstone for a homily during the tenth anniversary weekend or later in the year. Place copies of this brochure or statement on the display table or bulletin board at your parish.

Learn more about the aftermath of 9/11 from the people most affected. Visit the website of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, www.peacefultomorrow.org. Listen to the voices of the young people of Afghanistan who long for peace by visiting the website of the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, www.ourjourneytosmile.com.

Participate in one of the many actions calling for an end to the war in Afghanistan during the month of October.

RESOURCES

911 Stories: Our Voices, Our Choices at www.911stories.org is a project of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. The site offers stories answering the questions: How could we have responded differently? What could 9/11 families, and citizens around the world, have taught us about their experiences of terrorism, political violence and war? What choices could we have made, and what choices can we make today, to create peaceful tomorrows for everyone?

Be Not Afraid: An Alternative to the War on Terror, the award-winning book by Tom Cordaro which invites us to overcome the narrative of fear in our country and embrace a narrative of hope. Available from Pax Christi USA at www.paxchristiusa.org.

Summer 2011

Peaceweavings

***Ten Years After 9/11,
the Last Word is
LOVE***

*My brother, Bill Kelly Jr. died in
Tower 1 on September 11th... There's
a time for righteous moral outrage,
just as there's a time for
accountability, and justice...
But in the end, it's about love, and my
brother Bill. How much he loved
and was loved. How much I miss him.*



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Ten Years After 9/11, the Last Word is LOVE

by Colleen Kelly, Pax Christi USA 2011 Teacher of Peace



I was at a conference at Fordham University this past May entitled ‘Moral Outrage and Moral Repair – Reflections on 9/11 and its Afterlife’. The title interested me, as it seemed to accurately describe large portions of my existence this past decade.

My brother, Bill Kelly Jr. died in Tower 1 on September 11th. He wasn’t supposed to be there. He didn’t work at the Trade Center. Ironically, Bill’s prior visit to Windows on the World was in December 2000 to receive an employee recognition award. Who knew that the one-day conference Bill was attending on September 11th, the conference he persuaded his boss into letting him attend, would be an event from which he would never return.

Moral outrage – certainly. At the extremists that murdered my brother. At the twist of fate that led him to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. At a humanity that allows for violence as a means to make a point, state your case, right perceived wrongs. At anyone who dared exult in the agonizing smoke and fire.

Then came feelings of confusion – at my country, now planning to bomb others a world away. Didn’t we ... yes we just live through terror and horrific violence? So then how could we ... yes

What is a just war exactly? Why does the justification to injure others seem so hypocritical ... and human? And how does one truly live out the gospels - or are they simply a collection of beautiful stories? Finding a group of 9/11 family members who had these and similar concerns was a true blessing. In February of 2002, we formally became an organization – September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.

we ... be the cause of similar harm to others? Confusion also with my church. What is a just war exactly? Why does the justification to injure others seem so hypocritical ... and human? And how does one truly live out the gospels - or are they simply a collection of beautiful stories? Finding a group of 9/11 family members who had these and similar concerns was a true blessing. In February of 2002, we formally became an organization – September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. We have been working together to break cycles of violence ever since, and our members are ‘the best friends I never wanted to know’.

I have learned that moral repair will take a lifetime, and then some (I believe). September 11th

Families for Peaceful Tomorrows is a large part of this process for me. Bill is gone; and safe; and no longer in pain. I also like to believe he is surrounded by love. My faith tells me so.

After reading a few stories in the paper, Rabbi Kula began seeking out the last words and sentences of anyone he could find who was killed that day. And you know what he discovered? Not a single person said “Kill them.” “Get those * back.” “Avenge my death.”***

But I learned another lesson in moral repair at Fordham, from one of the speakers – a rabbi named Irwin Kula. He pointed out a truth that I desperately believe in – the most important and sacred value in our very fragile human lives is love. In the months following 9/11, Rabbi Kula became fascinated with the last words of those killed on September 11th. After reading a few stories in the paper, he began seeking out the last words and sentences of anyone he could find who was killed that day. And you know what he discovered? Not a single person said “Kill them.” “Get those **** back.” “Avenge my death.” No. Last words were not about hatred; they were sometimes about fear, but ultimately, and overwhelmingly, the last words of those killed on 9/11 were about love. “Tell mom and dad I love them.” “Tell the kids I’ll miss them and I love them.” “Julie, it’s bad, but know that I love you.”

So what do these last words tell us? I like to think they teach a lesson. There’s a time for righteous moral outrage, just as there’s a time for accountability, and justice. Peaceful Tomorrows helps with these vital goals. But in the end, it’s about love, and my brother Bill. How much he loved and was loved. How much I miss him. And how much I want the world to be a place where last words are never the end result of political violence, but instead reflect a full and just life, well lived.

Shortly after losing her brother, Colleen Kelly, inspired by decades of non-violent response to deadly conflict, met several other like-minded people who had lost family members on 9/11. This group of people eventually formed September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, which took its name from the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote, “Wars make poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.” You can learn more about the group at www.peacefultomorrows.org. The group has over 200 family members and has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize.

Colleen is the recipient of Pax Christi USA’s 2011 Teacher of Peace Award and will be honored at an event at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. on September 8, 2011. In January 2003, Colleen joined a person-to-person Peaceful Tomorrows delegation to Iraq to learn about the conditions facing civilians in the aftermath of two wars, sanctions, and the threat of new military action there. For the fifth anniversary of 9/11, Peaceful Tomorrows hosted more than thirty family members of victims of political violence from around the world who had consciously chosen to respond nonviolently. Participants included atomic bomb survivors; families affected by violence in Bali; Beslan, Russia; Madrid; Chile; Algeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Uganda; and Israel/Palestine. As a member of this international group, Colleen is committed to supporting families recently affected by the loss of a loved one, and to channel grief to break cycles of violence.