

Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently

and with unshakable faith.

-Pope John Paul II

What is Pax Christi?

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. 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.

In a world that settles differences by armed violence or the threat of war, Pax Christi offers a nonviolent alternative. In a world that too often defines "justice" as "revenge," Pax Christi USA dares to break the cycle of violence by fostering reconciliation. 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.

Who is Pax Christi?

Pax Christi USA is the national Catholic peace movement of 15,000 individual members who are committed to the Gospel imperative of nonviolence. Our membership includes: over 550 religious communities; over 450 parish sponsors; over 140 U.S. bishops; over 130 youth and young adult members; approximately 230 local groups; and 19 regions that coordinate activities in their respective geographic areas.

The History of Pax Christi

In 1945, a small group of Catholics in France began to meet regularly to pray for peace. They were troubled by the fact that French and German Catholics, who professed the same faith and celebrated the same Eucharist, had killed one another by the thousands during World War II. Knowing that this was not the will of God, they prayed for forgiveness, reconciliation and the peace of Christ. This was the birth of Pax Christi, which, literally translated, means "the peace of Christ."

Their mission and movement spread throughout Europe in the 1950s and 1960s, and in 1972, the United States chapter of Pax Christi was founded. At the first national assembly, held in Washington, D.C., Pax Christi USA became defined as "an association of Catholics and others committed to the exploration of Gospel nonviolence for our time."

Today, Pax Christi is active in over 30 countries, with a growing presence in Latin America and Africa. Pax Christi also has consultative status as a non-governmental organization at the United Nations.



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Four Priority Areas

Spirituality of Nonviolence and Peacemaking

Pax Christi USA promotes Christian nonviolence on the personal, communal, national and international levels. Believing in the Gospel call to conversion as found in the Beatitudes, Pax Christi USA denounces and resists the evils of violence while striving to reflect the Peace of Christ.

Disarmament, Demilitarization and Reconciliation with Justice

Pax Christi USA members promote nuclear, conventional and domestic disarmament, an end to the international arms trade, economic conversion to a non-military economy, and nonviolent alternatives to war. Pax Christi USA promotes the just reconciliation of enemies through the United Nations and other channels.

Economic and Interracial Justice in the United States

Pax Christi USA joins the struggle against economic injustice, militarism, and environmental destruction which are particularly harmful to those who are poor, minorities, children, and women. Pax Christi USA works toward eliminating racist structures in the Catholic Church and the country, working toward equality of all people.

Human Rights and Global Restoration

Pax Christi USA promotes universal human rights, both at home and abroad, through solidarity with oppressed and marginalized people struggling for dignity. Pax Christi USA rejects every form of political and economic domination over others and fosters a reverence for all creation.

Local contact:

**For more information on Pax Christi USA,
please visit our Web site at www.paxchristiusa.org**