

**Gun violence has no room in the spirituality of peace-making  
For justice sake, we must do something.**

Pax Christi USA at the SOA – 13<sup>th</sup> annual gathering, November 22, 2013

**Opening Music** by Joe Jencks of the SOA Watch Musicians Collective

**Welcome:** Cathy Crosby and Carole Lacour, Pax Christi Atlanta

**Opening Prayer:**

Leader 1: Tonight we gather as poets, activists, believers, dreamers and peace-makers. We are citizens of a country gone mad with violence, a country that believes that conflicts and disputes can be solved by weapons and that all wrongs can be righted by the use of guns. We are here to free ourselves and each other from that illusion. We are also here to re-dedicate our actions for peace, for gathering support from one another and for remembering that it is God's work that is being done through us.

Reader: A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah (29:11-14). "I alone know my purpose for you, says Yahweh, my purpose for your prosperity and my purpose for your peace...to give you a future full of hope. At that time when you call on me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. You will find me when you seek me with your whole heart." (Silence)

All: **All nourishing God, your people cry for help against the violence in our world: Where children starve for bread and feed on weapons; starve for vision and feed on drugs; starve for love and feed on videos; starve for peace and die murdered in our streets.**

Leader 2: Creator God, timeless preserver of resources, forgive us for the gifts that we have wasted. Renew for us what seems beyond redemption; call order & beauty to emerge again from chaos.

All: **Convert our destructive power into creative service; help us to heal the wounds of our world.**

Leader 1: Liberating God, release us from the demons of violence. Free us today from the disguised demon of deterrence that puts guns by our pillows and missiles in our skies.

All: **Free us from all demons that blind & blunt our spirits; cleanse us from justifications for war & violence; open our narrowed hearts to the suffering of those who are poor & marginalized.**

Leader 2: Abiding God, loving Renewer of the human spirit, unfold our violent fists into peaceful hands; stretch our sense of family to include our neighbors; stretch our sense of neighbor to include our enemies until our response to you finally respects and embraces all creation as precious sacraments of your presence.

All: **Hear the prayer of your starving people as we resist systemic injustice and institutionalized violence, that we may always choose life and resist the forces of death as we struggle together to be true peace-makers.**

## Speakers:

- ❖ **Sr. Patricia Chappell**, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA will address domestic gun violence in our homes and neighborhoods.
- ❖ **Kathy Kelly**, Co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Non-Violence will address how the U.S. manufacturing, selling and training in weapons usage puts the U.S. in complicity with terrorism and torture particularly in the southern hemisphere.

## Collection to support the work of Pax Christi USA

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

## Question and Answers with our Speakers

## Final Comments and Announcements

## 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 each other, to help rise up, to become free, to claim the human dignity and justice that all people are entitled...to rebuild."

All: **God is love, God stands in solidarity. God is solidarity. Where there is solidarity, there is God. Amen.**

## Closing Music

- Please accept this prayer card, Prayer for a New Society, as a gift from Pax Christi USA. During the closing music, the prayer card will be passed out to attendees.

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