



Summer 2015 Vol. 33 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI 48911  
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**(Re-)Introducing our new PCM Coordinator:  
 Mary L. Hanna**

Hello Friends! I'm Mary Hanna, and many of you already know me. I became a part of the Pax Christi State Council in 1989...and never left! Originally a Council member, I was later tapped to coordinate all of Pax Christi Michigan's technology and desktop publishing needs—something I still do today! I have also been a long-time member of our Finance Committee.



For those of you who may not already know, I am also the Operations Manager for *Michigan/Meta Peace Team*, for *Action of Greater Lansing*, and I help Cristo Rey Church (here in Lansing) with their technology needs. Suffice it to say that I feel totally blessed that all my employment—fragmented as it may seem — comes from working for peace with justice. I never take it for granted. Most specifically, I think the thing that both initially attracted me to Pax Christi, and the thing that keeps me most devoted to it, is

<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
Our New PCM Coordinator	1
Pax Christi at Campaign Nonviolence	2
Our 34th Annual State Conference	3
Take ACTION for Immigrant Rights	5
Peace Leadership Class Travels	6
Local Group Updates	6
Announcing our 2015 Retreat	8
2016 Annual Conference set!	8
Membership Reminder	8

**State Council:**

- Chair: Bob Podzikowski (Oak Park)
- Secretary: Carmen Kelly (Harper Woods)
- Treasurer & Assistant Coordinator: Pat Valaer (Lansing)
- State Coordinator and IT: Mary L. Hanna (Laingsburg)
- Young Peace Activists Liaison: Tera Warn (Detroit)
- Council Members: Mike Kelly, Ed Lorenz, Marilyn Lorenz, Geri Pleva, Jim Rauner, Fred Thelen

**Pax Christi Michigan...**

- Meets the 4th Saturday of January/April/July/October from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Any PCM member may attend as a non-voting participant. ©
- Working committees include: Finance, Membership, Technology and Young Peace Activists.
- If you are interested in attending a meeting or serving on the State Council, please let us know, or contact us if you have any other questions.

our deep and mutual commitment to a foundation of **Prayer→Study→Action**. For those of us with an appreciation for Catholic Social Teaching, and a devotion to the nonviolent Jesus, this approach is an integral part of living out our faith. I can't imagine living a life with integrity any other way.

It is an incredible honor to now assume the additional duties of State Coordinator – impossible shoes to fill without the on-going support of Pat Valaer (our Treasurer for over 32 years and now our Associate Coordinator), Bob Podzikowski (our Council Chair) and the rest of our *amazing* Council Members.

Please feel free to call on me at any time as we work collectively to make this world a more peaceful, more just, more collaborative world. It's a world we all believe is possible if we work together. In Peace—Mary



**Campaign Nonviolence** is holding a national conference August 6–9 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. **Pax Christi USA** will be hosting a special gathering for members, friends, and partners on **Thursday evening, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-9:30 p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 208 Grant Avenue in Santa Fe.

The evening event will include prayer and a dialogue with Sr. Patricia Chappell and Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau (respectively, Executive Director and Program Director of PCUSA), followed by a social. For more information and/or to register, contact **Campaign Nonviolence** at:

<http://paceebene.org/event/campaign-nonviolence-national-conference/>



## 34th PCM Annual State Conference – JOY!

*We continue on this journey called peace.*

By Carol Jachim

Joy – in seeing so many friends, longtime supporters of Pax Christi, as well as new folks joining us for the day. The conference brought nourishment for our souls as we face this difficult journey toward peace and nonviolence personally, locally, globally. We gathered in the spirit of Pax Christi's mission ... prayer, study, and action -- to take active steps in working for justice and peace. Thank You to all involved in the planning, and all who participated ... you made this day possible, and indeed it was inspirational and motivating.

We listened to keynoter, **David Swanson**, a dynamic, articulate, knowledgeable, passionate speaker. He captured everyone's attention. He gave hope that the movement for peace is real, even if the popular media has ignored it. Swanson's positive manner was inspirational, even if the facts were at times overwhelming; his presentation simply -- that war and violence are not the way. Peacemakers know that, but reminders prevent apathy. He forced us to question traditional concepts that war is part of human nature, and discussed the evils of war affecting all of society at every level, like education, health care and other domestic issues. Some of Swanson's books were available for purchase at the conference. He says, there is no upside to war; and yet, 200 countries together spend half of what the US spends on weapons. It was an honor to meet David Swanson and hear him speak. For further info about Swanson, please contact his website: [davidswanson.org](http://davidswanson.org) and [warisacrime.org](http://warisacrime.org).



Alex Marquis, 15, a freshman at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School in Detroit, says, "I thought the day brought many prevalent issues facing today's youth to light. It is paramount that these issues and problems are discussed because the youth are going to be hit hard if issues regarding just war and violence in today's society are not solved." Alex, who came to the conference with his mom, Lisa, says, "I feel a strong call to action after attending the Pax Christi Michigan conference and would recommend that anyone who wants to help make a change in the world join the peace movement, and Pax Christi."

For the Opening Prayer Service, put together by PCM council member Bob Podzikowski, Marquis read a reflection by Pope Francis, for the *Celebration of the World Day of Peace*, January 1, 2014. Others leading prayers in the Opening and Closing Prayer Services were Carolyn Shalhoub, Maureen Prest, Ron Jachim, and Mary & Bill Carry.



The second speaker of the day, **Elliott Adams**, a former paratrooper in Vietnam, past-President of Veterans for Peace, and nonviolence skills trainer with Meta Peace Team reminded us ... Peace is Patriotic. "We must walk the talk, and take a role." His focus was on the Nuremberg Principles and International Law ... "These give us tools in our struggle to end war and to create justice." An admirable person, Elliott has dedicated his life to ending war ... yes, walking the talk, by demonstrating in the streets, testifying before the U.S. Congress Judiciary Committee, speaking to groups, and more.



In the spirit of PCM's "Prayer-Study-Action" format, guest speaker Aida Cuadrado – Director of Action of Greater Lansing – updated us on the status of immigrant families seeking legal asylum here in the United States, the heartbreaking division of families with current immigration law, and Attorney General Dan Schuette's signing onto a lawsuit that blocks the passage of DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). As the "action" component of our conference, attendees filled out postcards addressed to Mr. Schuette, asking him to remove his signature of support from the lawsuit. (Please see our website for full details on this issue), and encouraged him to work to keep families together.

God's blessings of peace be with the annual PCM awardees: **Tera Warn**, past PCM state council member and chairperson, was awarded the Young Adult Peacemaker Award; and the Annual Purple Ribbon for Peace Award was presented to **Nancy and Richard Peters** of Muskegon Pax Christi. These are outstanding makers of peace, working diligently to bring awareness that peace is possible, and that it is crucial to continue in that work. Their dedication to peace -- a blessing to all of us.

Special unique award winners are those who make the effort to support PCM, and attend the conference. Your presence, kind words, donations, and general support give inspiration to all of us to stay strong in our beliefs that peace and nonviolence, as well as social justice programs, are values worth maintaining and working for, as Jesus taught. We need each other as we travel this bumpy road, as we read of the daily conflicts and violence in families, in our cities, in our country and world.



Present at this year's conference were long-time activists like Bishop Tom Gumbleton, Fr. Fred Thelen, Mary Coyle, **Mary Hennig**, Sr. Maria Goretti Beckman, Mary & Bill Carry, Joe Droste, Doreen & Neville D'Souza, Sally Peck, Mary & Jerry Black, Joan Tirak, and so many more - all of whom are a blessing in our lives. Noticeably missed were Sigrid & Ron Dale and Vivienne & Ray Kell, who remain in our prayers.

Special thank you to Pat Valaer, Bob Podzikowski, Mary Hanna, and the State Council members who coordinated the conference and tended to the numerous details that surround the annual PCM event.



As Bishop Tom Gumbleton often says, "I am most grateful for Pax Christi Michigan's consistent witness to the power of nonviolence. It is a wonderful gift to me, and I urge others to join PCM to bring Christ's peace to our world."

Peace work is not easy, but it must continue, and it will. Pax Christi is a presence throughout the world, one of those voices "crying in the wilderness" for peace.

### **Pax Christi Michigan Partners with Action of Greater Lansing in Support of Immigrant Families**

Pax Christi Michigan is honored to join **Action of Greater Lansing** in advocating for keeping ALL families together, and requesting that Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette remove Michigan from the anti-immigrant lawsuit blocking the passage of DAPA and DACA. This suit temporarily halts President Obama's Executive Action that would grant a temporary stay for undocumented young immigrants who have passed an extensive back ground check, are attending school and/or are a member of the military. Postcards like the one below were signed by PCM State Conference attendees, and hand-delivered to the office of the Attorney General in Lansing.

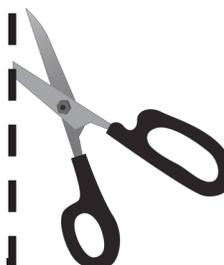
We encourage those of you who have not yet done so to sign the form below, add any comments you like, and send it to:

#### **Keep Families Together!**

The President's Immigration Action is good for Michigan and good for our nation. I urge you to end your opposition to the President's Administrative Relief program and stand in favor of keeping Michigan Families together. Please remove your support for the lawsuit against Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Sincerely,

**Attorney General  
Bill Schuette  
G. Mennen Williams  
Bldg, 7th Floor  
525 W. Ottawa St.  
P.O. Box 30212  
Lansing, MI 48909**



## PCM Council Members Lead Peace Leadership Class

by Marilyn & Ed Lorenz

Alma College Public Affairs Spring term class on *Leadership in Human Rights and Conflict Resolution* visited various organizations and sites in Western Europe related to the struggles over the last 500 years to develop legal procedures to protect human rights and regulate the conduct of war. This excursion was coordinated by **PCM State Council member and Alma College professor, Ed Lorenz** and his wife **Marilyn**. Over the first three weeks in May, the students visited France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, beginning with Spain. They visited such sites as Oradour-sur-Glane, a town in France that was eradicated by the Nazis four days after D-Day. 642 civilians were slaughtered. France decided to maintain the town as a reminder of human brutality, fencing it in and limiting access through a below-ground visitor's center. In this area of France, they also visited the Verdun Cathedral, where the group chanced upon a Pax Christi newsletter placed prominently on an information table in the back of the church.

FOR MORE ON THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY, PLEASE VISIT THE PAX CHRISTI MICHIGAN BLOG, **PEACETALK** ([HTTPS://PAXCHRISTIMI.WORDPRESS.COM](https://paxchristimi.wordpress.com)) WHICH DETAILS THEIR EYE-OPENING ADVENTURE AND OFFERS LOTS OF ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS.

# Local Group Updates

## Pax Christi Peace Seekers Outreach

Pax Christi Peace Seekers, who meet at SS. Simon & Jude Parish in Westland MI, are participating in an outreach project. We have partnered with Children's Hospital of Michigan to combat hunger by collecting cereal. In Southeast MI 300,000 free or reduced fee meals are served daily during the school year. We found out that many of these children go hungry during the summer. Hunger affects health. The connection between good nutrition and good health is clear.



This summer Gleaners will distribute millions of meals through their child feeding programs, including school-based mobile pantries, summer lunch services and emergency food distribution through their partners network of day care, summer camps, pantries, shelters and other agencies that serve children in need. This cereal collection is one way our chapter can take action and make a difference in the community.

- Written by Celeste White
- Contact: Mary Beth Seymour—313-561-4736; [meseymour63@gmail.com](mailto:meseymour63@gmail.com)

## Pax Christi Lansing



On Good Friday, members of Pax Christi Lansing participated in the annual Via Crucis, sponsored by Cristo Rey Church. Beginning at the State Capital, and winding through the streets of Lansing, Cristo Rey parishioners performed a dramatic and moving reenactment of the passion of the Christ. Father Fred Thelen, pastor of Cristo Rey and PC-Lansing member, was an integral part of this eagerly-anticipated Holy Week event. Pax Christi Lansing continues to study and discuss Megan McKenna's book, "*The Prophets*".

- Contact: Dave Borzenski – 517-321-1773, [borzenskid@aol.com](mailto:borzenskid@aol.com)

## Nazareth Pax Christi

This has been a very active and learning year for our group of Pax Christi here in Kalamazoo. We meet every 4th Thursday of the month at noon and again in the evening for those off campus who are available only in the evening. We number about 35 Sisters. At times others involved in Peace and Justice concerns and conferences invite us to join them.

In January, we looked at Human Trafficking when Pope Francis and the World Faith Leaders called us to put an end to trafficking forever. Some elected to join a group that processed and prayed around our center with some employees carrying posters. Later we participated in a group who processed to the road in front of Nazareth with the posters to alert others to what is happening to our brothers, sisters and children enslaved in human trafficking.



In February we invited a Palestinian woman, Shadia Kanaan who resides with her husband in Kalamazoo but continue to return to Palestine where their family lives. Shadia shared her experiences of being Palestinian in their town of Nablus in the West Bank. A number of guests joined us for the presentation and questions. It was important for us to hear the “other

side”.

Our subject for March was “Poverty, Prisons, the “Drug War” and Racism. Michelle Alexander, an attorney and author of the book “The New Jim Crow” was interviewed by Amy Goodman of “Democracy Now” in one of her telecasts. We were shown the stark connection of these four realities of our society in the United States which continues to build and maintain the injustice in which many of our citizens are forced to live today.

The subject of religious persecution in all parts of our world today called us to examine in April, what is happening and why are Christians and society at large seemingly ignorant or indifferent to the killings, burnings, beheadings and other atrocities going on around us. We presented a DVD on the history of persecution, what is happening and where. Our discussion led us to assess our own U.S. foreign policy, public media and personal prayer to find answers to our many questions and ways to respond to this reality.



In May we sought to discover and honor the countless women living in the last 100 years who have worked and sacrificed their lives to put an end to war. Again relaying on Amy Goodman and *Democracy Now*, we remembered the women a century ago in The Hague who came from all over the world to form the WILPF, “Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom” where they denounced war and demanded peace and freedom for all the world. To celebrate those women, more than a thousand others met in April to honor their efforts and to honor women today who are continuing their legacy. Amy Goodman interviewed three women - Nobel Prize Laureates from Ireland, the United States and Liberia. The discussion that followed was life-giving. Women continue to lead the way.

- **Contact:** Sister Rosemary Balog — [rbalog@csjoseph.org](mailto:rbalog@csjoseph.org)

## Oakland Pax Christi

Sixteen people gathered Friday evening, June 5th to hear Kim Redigan talk about the residential water shutoffs in Detroit. Kim titled her talk *God's Gonna Trouble the Water - a Faith Based Response to Water Shutoffs in Detroit*. She also described the related problems in Highland Park and Flint.

Kim, a longtime Pax Christi leader, is one of nine nonviolent Detroit water activists who were arrested and charged for blocking water shutoffs last July.

While we were all aware that the water shutoffs have been happening, we were all stunned by the gross injustice and the complexity of what is going on. She left us each with lot of information and analysis by concerned academics and others and information on the alternatives that are being pursued. A lot of frustration was expressed by the lack of any kind of response by the Archdiocese of Detroit to this crisis which is bringing such widespread suffering to people in the city.

We think everyone left with a strong sense of 'having to do something'. Hopefully, after studying the materials that Kim left with each of us, we will each 'do something'.

To see how the Flint and Detroit water crises are related, go to: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/how-flint-water-crisis-affects-metro-detroit-customers/31655760> . Read about how the Lansing Diocese is coming to Flint’s aid: <http://faithdigital.org/faithmag/FM0615/#?page=0>

- **Contact:** Bill & Mary Carry - 248-681-3205, [wjc1mbc2@aol.com](mailto:wjc1mbc2@aol.com)

**Mark Your Calendars!:**

**Our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pax Christi Michigan Retreat**

October 16-18th, 2015

Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center—Higgins Lake



Please plan on joining us for this relaxing, reflective and nurturing weekend, nestled in the natural splendor of Higgins Lake, deemed one of the 7 most beautiful lakes in the world.

*Brochure with details coming to a mailbox near you soon!*

**Pax Christi Michigan's  
35th Annual State Conference**



**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

Cristo Rey Church—Lansing, MI

**Keynote Speakers:** Sr. Patricia Chappell, PCUSA Executive Director & Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau, PCUSA Program Director

**Focus:** Ending pervasive, systemic racism



Pax Christi Michigan also has a wonderful 'virtual' presence. Check us out!

Our website: [www.paxchristimi.org](http://www.paxchristimi.org)

Our blog, *PeaceTalk*: [paxchristimi.wordpress.com/](http://paxchristimi.wordpress.com/)



**PCUSA/PCM MEMBERSHIP**

**JOIN or RENEW NOW!**

I believe that "peace is possible" and want to join Pax Christi USA – also giving me regional membership in Pax Christi Michigan:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The regular membership fee for Pax Christi USA is \$40 per 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:

\_\_\_\$40 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_other

At this time I can only contribute \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**MAIL TO:** Pax Christi USA  
415 Michigan Ave. NE, Suite 240  
Washington D.C. 20017