



A Pressing Warning and Unremitting Hope for Humanity and our Planet!  
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## “War is a Defeat”

~ Pope Francis

A Prayer for Gaza, A Prayer for Peace.  
With sorrow and longing, we share the conviction that. “War is a defeat; every war is a defeat. Let us pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.” We share the anguish and outrage over the senseless death and destruction affecting so many. We join the call for a just and lasting peace where all lives find safety and fullness of life.

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## Forgive Us for the Loss of Each Child Born

by Ava Murray-Z, member of Catholic Peace Fellowship and St. Malachy Antiracism Committee

My husband brought home two fliers from Catholic Peace Fellowship (CPF) -Philadelphia February 2024 Meeting. One was about a Catholic Environment event, but it was the second flier that caught my attention. I connected strongly with what I read “A Silent Procession for Peace- A Public Ritual; We grieve the Loss of Every Child – There is Another Way”.

Yes – at last an event that resonated with me, an event that reached behind the physical to connect with the soul. I detest war and violence. I seldom appreciate the politics. I am very basic about this - “War is one woman’s child killing another woman’s child”. The Procession was scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and sponsored by the American Friends of “Combatants for Peace”. Combatants for Peace is a grassroots movement of former Palestinian and Israeli fighters dedicated to achieving peace through non-violent activities. We were to meet at Chestnut Hill, Peace Park on the Corner of Germantown Avenue, and Mermaid Land and process for a one-mile round trip walk.

“A Silent Procession for Peace- A Public Ritual.” A Ritual spoke to me of meaning and a Public Ritual – spoke of the willingness to bear witness to this shared meaning – “to our commitment to preserving the life of every child, transcending political divisions to engage in nonviolent solutions.”

There were several of us from CPF in attendance. The event started with chanted prayer led by Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer and Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein. Soft repetitive rhythmic song accompanied by a tambourine-sized drum. We were told to pick up the replicas of shrouded dead babies and the posters of Israeli and Palestinian children that were killed in the recent conflict. We were asked to walk in silence.

As I bent to pick up a poster, I saw the face that I recognized – it was the face that had galvanized me into action weeks earlier. It was the face of a 12-year-old that I read about in the

BBC New Jerusalem news. It was a story about Awni Eldous, a young Palestinian boy who wished to be an influencer on You Tube and had been one of the first killed in the war. The story stated that his aim was to find fame by reaching 1,000,000 subscribers. He had only reached one thousand at the time of his death. Since his death, he has surpassed 1,500,000 followers and counting. I saw the photo of all his brother and sisters – lovely smiling children who were also killed.

Hearing of this I was engulfed by emotions. I was lying down comfortably in my warm bed and children were dying in so many places. When did I become so apathetic? In that instant I reached for my computer and sent letters to the political representatives appealing for a cease fire intervention. I found my credit card to add to my “Doctors without Borders” subscription. I thought of the many families and children that would not see the New Year 2024. Where was my gratitude for my blessings? In about five hours, our family, about 17 adults and children in total, would be coming to our home to celebrate “The Feast of the Seven Fishes”. I had a sudden change of perspective, moving from complaining about the hosting duties as a burden to gusto and thankfulness for this opportunity to celebrate with our family. All the stress associated with making sure everything was perfect disappeared, I had one goal – to celebrate with our family on behalf of families everywhere who no longer were able to share a meal. I felt this cloud of gratitude as I entertained, and I was even thankful for the post clean up.

I did not pick up the poster of Awni Eldous at the event, someone else had picked it up. I walked in the procession with tears running down my face as the memories engulfed me. When we completed the procession, we were requested to place the posters down and handed a white carnation. Someone nudged me to place the carnation on the posters. I did not wish to do this, but I complied. I wished to carry it home and place it in a vase and let it dry as the dry palms from Palm Sunday that I kept in front of my house altar.

It is now the season of Lent. I think of the reading from Matthew 27:24. The translation from Aramaic reads “Pilate took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am free from the blood of this righteous man.’ Am I doing enough? Am I asking this question because, like Pilate, I do not wish to be held accountable for the loss of all these children’s lives?”

My Catholic Cursillo formation recommends the tripod of Piety, Study, and Action:

**Piety:** Should I be standing in the gap with my prayers for those such as Combatants for Peace?

**Study:** Should I be reading and become aware of places everywhere including my adopted city of Philadelphia and my country of Trinidad where children are lost daily?

**Action:** Should I be engaging in public rituals of peace? Should I be increasing support for organizations that engage in peaceful solutions? Should I be appealing to our elected officials?

A verse from Sweet Honey in the Rock song “We Are” declares – “For each child that born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.”

My addition to this song would be - For each child that dies, a night star falls and cries to the universe ... what we have done.

Images from the procession are posted here: [www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila)

# “War is a Defeat”

~ Pope Francis

In response to every war in recent years, Pope Francis has repeated “war is a defeat.” For the tragic loss of life in Syria, DRC, Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Haiti and now Gaza (and Israel / Palestine in general) to name a few, he repeats “every war is a defeat” and the only winners of war are those who make and sell the weapons. This is both prophetic and obvious to anyone who considers the profits of weapons manufacturers. The Pope refers to profiteers in the arms industries when he refers to those who ‘make’ the weapons and not factory workers.

A friend of CPF, who is a specialist in the financial industry, sadly pointed out “that bombs blow up and *must* be replaced, offering endless revenue opportunity as long as it’s a war-torn world.” War investors can insidiously give money to political parties and even terrorist groups to guarantee these endless wars. In Darfur, the Sudan in general and South Sudan, regional and global powers have their proxy wars at the expense of the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Francis goes on to lament the proliferation of weapons, which leads to their eventual use. For us in and around Philadelphia, as well as those in other cities, this also means guns on our streets and sadly in the hands of teenagers. The Pope speaks also to other hard issues like forced migration, poverty and the climate and environmental crisis and connects them all to the pervasive culture of the modern world driven by economics; fueled by greed and selfishness.

Pope Francis always speaks to Hope when he addresses these grave issues. This contemplation is a challenge, but his Holiness reminds us that Hope is not something we ‘feel’, Hope is something we ‘do’.

Pray for Gaza, Act for Peace: <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>  
<https://www.palestineportal.org/placemarks/christian-jewish-allies-for-a-just-peace-in-israelpalestine/>  
<https://www.redletterchristians.org/events/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage-philadelphia/>

## CEASE FIRE NOW!





## **We Grieve the Loss of Every Child - A Silent Procession for Peace**

*paraphrase text from original flier by Jean Warrington of Chestnut Hill*

**"A Silent Procession for Peace: We Grieve the Loss of Every Child"** took place on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. The event was organized by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Friends of Combatants for Peace (CfP), a grassroots movement founded in 2006 that brings together Palestinians and Israelis committed to achieving sustainable peace through joint nonviolence.

The procession mourned and commemorated the young lives lost in the ongoing conflict, advocating for peace, equality, and freedom in their homeland. Organizers emphasize the use of civil resistance, education, and other forms of nonviolent activism to challenge systems of oppression and envision a peaceful future.

Participants carried signs and shrouded bundles to signify the bodies of babies killed provided by the organizers, featuring messages such as "We grieve the loss of every child," and "Shalom, Salaam, Let there be Peace," along with visual representations of Palestinian and Israeli children who have fallen victim to the conflict.

Attendees were asked to adhere to a dress code of dark colors and refrain from bringing flags, banners, or message T-shirts. The event featured drums but no chants or songs. The silent march was for a 1-mile round trip on Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill. For more details, ...contact Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer or Wendy Weingarten. For additional information about Combatants for Peace and their initiatives; visit: <https://cfpeace.org/>.



## Want to tackle gun violence? Think about trees.

In the wake of recent gun violence in Philadelphia the following is appropriate reflection, we received permission from Oanela to post in our newsletter this article from the inquirer.com: **“Want to tackle gun violence? Think about trees.”** We must transform the underlying systems that create the conditions where gun violence takes hold.

Concerned about pollution, endangered species, climate change, environmental justice? Interested in Creation Care and steps you can take to help? EcoPhilly <https://www.ecophilly.org/>



## 2024 Annual EcoPhilly Conference

Saturday February 24 - St. Thomas of Villanova Chapel in Rosemont

EcoPhilly as part of the Laudato Si' Movement, is a group of volunteers working with the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia to help parishes, schools and universities follow biodiversity-boosting and sustainable practices as outlined in Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. EcoPhilly has the blessing and support of the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez. This network of creation care teams throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has achieved measurable improvements in their local environment.





CPF member Barbara Sheehan at EcoPhilly Annual Conference, introduced the keynote speaker Christopher M. Rabb, Pennsylvania House of Representatives District 200, a Democrat, serving the Northwestern part of Philadelphia County. Additionally, CPF member Kit McGovern helped encourage CPF members, CPFNL subscribers and others to attend. Full report on this informative and motivating event: <https://catholicphilly.com> & <https://www.ecophilly.org/>; <https://catholicphilly.com/2024/03/commentaries/ecophilly-annual-conference-pulses-with-energy-enthusiasm-and-community/?fbclid=IwAR3mNg0dPLpEZfefuV8lc-SrJ0dxHhvj7Oxr42puKpJDnngecp4StMSX0w4>



Photo of students at EcoPhilly from St Joe's Prep and other Catholic Schools:

During the Saturday morning presentations speakers referenced Laudate Deum: the Pope's sequel to Laudato Si'.

"Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si', when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home.

Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point." ~ Pope Francis

<https://www.ecophilly.org/post/laudate-deum-the-pope-s-sequel-to-laudato-si>  
<https://youtu.be/JOHJxc0hd1c?list=TLGGWcz2mOVClI8wNzAzMjAyNA>  
<https://www.ecophilly.org/earth-day>

The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders

The Letter: Laudato Si Film | <https://www.theletterfilm.org/>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331Y2FFmyZQ> Full: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

"Fratelli Tutti" - Examen | CPF 2021-10 co-sponsored Retreat on Pope Francis Encyclical

Link to recording of CPF's Retreat on papal encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' (Sisters and Brothers All).

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/W-ltvbKqbXWPkj9m-9a-Hxh2xKNW3Omr5aZ4PZfNyrXO2FE0d3Y6m7UgkY3sfZsj.rnk5omSR\\_cOtw1pC](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/W-ltvbKqbXWPkj9m-9a-Hxh2xKNW3Omr5aZ4PZfNyrXO2FE0d3Y6m7UgkY3sfZsj.rnk5omSR_cOtw1pC)

## **Phyllis Anne Grady 1929-2023**

by Patty Lee, *a teacher friend of Phyllis*

Phyllis Anne Grady passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 26, 2023, at the age of 93. She was the beloved daughter of the late John J. and Lulu M. Grady. She is survived by her loving sister, Mary Lou Grady.

Born in 1929, Phyllis grew up in Havertown and was a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in New York City. Following graduation, she was an elementary school teacher in New Jersey and Pennsylvania while at the same time earning two graduate degrees. She received her second master's degree in library science from Drexel University.

It was in the elementary school library where she found her greatest joy, combining her love for books with her talent for working with children. She served as an elementary school librarian in the Radnor School District for many years—at Rosemont School until its closing in 1980 and then at Wayne Elementary School. Her library was a welcoming place for students, teachers, and parent volunteers. She greeted each child by name and guided them in choosing high quality children's literature that captured their interest. Decades later, former students remember fondly the interest she showed in them as individuals. She was known for broadening her students' experiences by bringing noted children's authors and illustrators to talk to her students and share their love of writing and illustration.

An avid reader throughout her life, Phyllis kept abreast of current events. Over the years, she was involved in efforts to help those less fortunate. She donated countless hours to the mission of Amnesty International, supported prison inmates through correspondence, and dedicated her efforts to providing food for the homeless.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her Visitation on Saturday morning, July 15, 2023, 9:00-9:50 AM in St. Malachy Church 1429 N 11th St. Philadelphia, PA 19122 followed by her Mass of Christian Burial 10:00 AM. Interment will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Phyllis's memory may be made to House of Grace Catholic Worker, 1826 E. Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19125. "In our doing of small things with love and faith, God will multiply our actions."

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/grady/phyllis>



## Our Beloved Phyllis 1929-2023

Catholic Peace Fellowship of Philadelphia is grateful for the life of our long-time member and treasurer, Phyllis Grady. Ava led us in a touching remembrance of Phyllis in one of our meetings last year where we each shared how she touched our lives and the lives of others. Ava started us off with a reflection and personal remembering. Scott Fina shared on Zoom his last visit to see her just before she passed and on how she helped him and his wife Barbara after the birth of their triplets. Mary Ellen spoke of how Phyllis would join Lois and Cy Swartz, Joe Bradley, Frank McGinty and others from CPF in front of the Israeli Consulate to quietly remind everyone of the plight of the Palestinian people and protest their mistreatment and often violent occupation. Some of us spoke of Phyllis's work with those incarcerated, and particularly the "lifers". Bill Hartman and others spoke of her work in CPF and other organizations.

Mary Lou was grateful for everyone's touching words.



Phyllis Grady at Jesu Caritas

### A Listening Church Continued

**“A Church that teaches must be firstly a Church that listens.” ~ Pope Francis**

The CPF in this ongoing conversation on Synodality encourages the CPFNL readership and CPF supporters to share on the Synod's major themes of “Communion, Participation and Mission,” and on the state of the world and Church in general. We welcome your response and hope you can post directly on [www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila) or email us at [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com) and we will do our best to post on the Facebook page.

In the *Letter to the Romans* (16:1-2), Saint Paul commends Phoebe and introduces her as “our sister,” a benefactor and a deacon (*diakonos*) of the church at Cenchreae.

**St. Phoebe, 2018 (C) Laura James, printed with artist permission  
courtesy of [www.discerningdeacons.org](http://www.discerningdeacons.org):**

Discerning Deacons is a dynamic group of women of all ages and backgrounds. To become part of the Saint Phoebe Prayer Circle contact Angela at [angela.b.berryman@gmail.com](mailto:angela.b.berryman@gmail.com). Additional resources:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/brothers-and-sisters-us>

[https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts\\_0.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts_0.pdf)

[https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/1999/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_hom\\_19990127\\_stlouis-vespers.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_19990127_stlouis-vespers.html)



## Summary of Spring 2023 Catholic Peace Fellowship

### Synodality Retreat and Discernment for the future of CPF Phila

CPF commends John McGinty for his careful preparation of CPF Phila Synodality Gathering before returning to Wisconsin last summer. Below is John's full report and commentary, "CPF Philadelphia Synodality and Discernment Process, Amidst a Troubled World." CPFNL would like to share with our readers the following summary.

As a group CPF had to prioritize the urgent need to oppose all war and the terrible reality of the proliferation of weapons from nuclear warheads to handguns and everything in between; Nuke elimination to Gun Control. CPF members understand the looming climate and environmental crisis as a grave threat to organized human life. However, as a peace group, we acknowledge these environmental catastrophes will also precipitate more wars and violence. We also recognized racism and inter-group hatred are the fuel for violence and war; opposing these forces is a mission of peace. Finally, we wish to continue to support the effort for the canonization of both Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter, in conjunction with the care for the statue of Franz at St. Malachy. We pray to allow the spirit to guide and move us to continue to witness through actions for peace.

As a group we needed to focus our energy on these missions along with maintaining the CPFphila.com website. As such the effort to publish a multi-article newsletter on a regular basis did not materialize as a priority. This issue will be the last CPF newsletter in this format. Our next goal is to streamline this process by releasing single article CPF bulletins as they are submitted via email, Facebook postings and on [www.CPFphila.com](http://www.CPFphila.com). We remind our subscribers to stay up to date by also checking [www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila) and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289368945969058> where PDF articles and announcements can also be posted.

## Catholic Peace Fellowship Phila. Synodality and Discernment Process, Amidst a Troubled World

by John McGinty, *Catholic Peace Fellowship*

I heard a thousand blended notes,  
While in a grove I sate reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link  
The human soul that through me ran;  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,  
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;  
And 'tis my faith that every flower  
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,  
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—  
But the least motion which they made  
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?

The preceding poem written by William Wordsworth, titled: "Lines Written in Early Spring," embodies the synodality and discernment process undertaken by Catholic Peace Fellowship during spring and summer 2023... amidst the troubling Russia-Ukraine war. In April 2023, thirteen months after Russia's most recent invasion of Ukraine, CPF Philadelphia engaged in

retreat on Pope Francis's invitation for synodality, facilitated by Fr. George Bur, Angie and Phil Berryman. The April retreat inspired a summer-long process, in which CPF members engaged in a spiritual conversation of communal apostolic discernment as used by Jesuit and Ignatian communities. An interesting parallel has emerged between CPF's synodality and discernment process, and Wordsworth's poem about spring. Just as Wordsworth's narrator recognizes reality to be harsh, "And much it grieved my heart to think/ What man has made of man;" CPF recognizes reality's harshness, and throughout the summer-long process expressed moral outrage over the suffering of Ukrainians amidst an avalanche of violence that, like so often in our human history, rages without justification, and rages without discrimination, and rages without conscience. Yet, despite violence's rage, Wordsworth invites us to listen for Nature's hope, "Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,/ The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;/ And 'tis my faith that every flower/ Enjoys the air it breathes." Similarly, despite "What man has made of man," members of Catholic Peace Fellowship actively listened for the Holy Spirit's hope, as shared in the thoughts of one another. The culmination of the summer-long synodality and discernment process was the organic emergence of four guiding themes representing CPF's strength and vision moving forward, as a testament of non-violent resistance to "What man has made of man."

The CPF synodality and discernment process unfolded in three phases throughout spring and summer 2023. The goal of the first phase was to celebrate who we were historically as CPF, by sharing meaningful pictures, objects, and memorabilia, that celebrate our past. The echoes from our past mirrored Wordsworth's poetic lines, "The budding twigs spread out their fan,/ To catch the breezy air;/ And I must think, do all I can,/ That there was pleasure there." Fundamentally, our strength as CPF comes from the people who have made up our organization in the past. During the who we were phase, we engaged in thinking deeply about our past spiritual experiences as part of CPF. Remembering CPF instances, and CPF events, that helped us feel fulfilled and uplifted. Remembering CPF people who have helped us feel inspired and spiritually grounded. Remembering with pride and gratitude how we have experienced CPF attempting to make the world a better place.

The goal of the second phase was to celebrate who we are as CPF, by sharing meaningful reflections on several introspective questions. The voice of our current CPF members emulated Wordsworth's poetic lines, "The birds around me hopped and played,/ Their thoughts I cannot measure:—/ But the least motion which they made/ It seemed a thrill of pleasure." Fundamentally, our strength as CPF comes from the people who make up our organization. We thought deeply about our current spiritual experiences as part of CPF, and thought deeply about what draws us to CPF, and what inspires us to be part of CPF. We shared written reflections on three distinct aspects of what CPF means to us as current members, that is the Catholic aspect, the Peace aspect, and the Fellowship aspect.

The goal of the third phase was to welcome others' ideas, and support others' ideas, about who we want to be as CPF in the future, by trying to make meaningful connections between the ideas shared, and our own understanding of CPF. The ideas about our future resembled Wordsworth's poetic lines, "If this belief from heaven be sent,/ If such be Nature's holy plan,/ Have I not reason to lament/ What man has made of man?" Amidst our troubled world, amidst Russia's immoral terror, amidst Ukraine's unconscionable suffering, the moral strength of CPF steadfastly emanates among the people who currently make up our organization. We thought deeply about where CPF should go in the future, thought deeply about our hope for CPF in the future, and thought deeply about what would be inspiring for CPF

to address in the future. We shared many ideas, welcomed others' ideas, supported others' ideas, all about who we want to be as CPF addressing the future... amidst our troubled world.

Triumphantly emerging from the synodality and discernment process were the four themes of: A voice against war; Inclusive prayerful bridge-building through actions that reflect a realistic self-evaluation of our available time and talent; Promoting peace with the Earth; Fellowshiping with each other. The first theme, a voice against war, renews CPF Philadelphia's foundational testimony to a voice for alternative non-violent activity. This foundational idea directs CPF to build consensus around organizing and creating public vigils for peace endeavors, standing in the marketplace to say No to war and the preparations for war. There were two prominent examples of this theme over the last year. On January 28th, 2023, CPF co-sponsored with the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, an event at Chestnut Hill College featuring the showing of the film, "The Nuns, The Priests and the Bombs." On May 14th, 2023, CPF members Bill Hartman, Barbara Sheehan, and Sister Maryanne Zakreski, met other activists from Women's Strike for Peace, Brandywine Peace Community, and Veterans for Peace, at Penn's Landing and spent the afternoon in solidarity with the crew of "The Golden Rule." This Peace Maker sailing ship was first launched by a Quaker crew in 1958 with the intent of navigating a seaward protest to nuclear test sites on islands in the Pacific. Along that initial voyage the ship was stopped, and the crew arrested for violation of US law.

The second theme, inclusive prayerful bridge-building through actions that reflect a realistic self-evaluation of our available time and talent, reflects CPF Philadelphia's recognition that changes in our membership over time, encourage small and big acts of reasonable capacity. Such acts are centered in prayer, are opportunities to extend open invitations to all, and are occasions to participate with other peacemakers in sensible ways.

The third theme, promoting peace with the earth, extends CPF Philadelphia's commitment of non-violence to include all creation. Extending non-violence to all creation is based on Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, in which he bonds our Catholic concern for the human environment, with a needed concern for the natural environment. CPF member Barbara Sheehan is leading an advocacy effort to support passage of PA House Bill 652, which requires greater transparency about the impact on human and natural habitats resulting from new facility construction, or facility expansion, in areas throughout Pennsylvania designated as environmental justice areas.

The fourth theme, fellowshiping with each other, invites new and existing CPF members to break bread together over discussions of past and future peacemaking. This idea of fellowship stems from a genuine sense of gratitude felt towards those who have historically led, and those who are currently leading, our peacemaking efforts. This idea of fellowship is a recognition that our diminutive peaceful practices and daily peaceful social interactions can transform into a vibrant community emulating non-violence when we support and celebrate with each other. We invite all to join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month, immediately following the 10am mass at St. Malachy's Church.

CPF's synodality and discernment process, invited us to listen to the legacy of our past peacemakers, asked us to listen to the passions of our current peacemakers, and inspired us to listen for the Holy Spirit's message of hope in our future peacemaking. And it is amidst a troubled world, marked by the Russia-Ukraine war, and the Israel-Hamas war, that we must search for an underlying hope in non-violence as found in Wordsworth's poetic lines, "To her fair works did Nature link; The human soul that through me ran.

## **Join us for Hospitality May 5 in St. Malachy Hall after 10 am Mass and celebrate Fr. Mac's Birthday and CPFNL**

There will be **no CPF meeting in May 2024**; Instead join us for a **Special Hospitality** on May 5 after the 10 am Sunday Mass at St. Malachy, 1429 N. 11th St. Philadelphia, PA 19122.

Most first Sundays, St. Malachy parish invites parishioners and guests to a light hospitality after the Sunday mass in the former school hall. Usually, these 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays are sponsored by one or two parish groups. In May 2024 CPF will sponsor hospitality with two other groups, Jesu Caritas and Christian Meditation which like CPF have had Fr. McNamee as a long-time member. These three groups are not specifically parish groups, however many of us are also members of two parish groups who will also join us in this effort: St. Malachy Antiracism Committee and the Parish Decorating Committee. The occasion will also be a chance for members of each of these five groups to socialize with parishioners and guests as well as inform others of our missions. We hope CPF supporters and CPF newsletter subscribers can join us on this coming first Sunday of May 2024.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these groups sooner; please feel free to email us at [CPFphila@gmail.com](mailto:CPFphila@gmail.com) and please put the name of the group in the subject line. Briefly:

1. Jesu Caritas was initiated at St Malachy by a group of parishioners joining Fr. MacNamee and Sr. Cecile on a one-day retreat in Brooklyn with other Jesu Caritas groups, many decades ago. The group meets online using the same link as CPF at 9 am on the second Saturday of the month. For more information, please reach out to Pat Smyth or Lois Harris after the Sunday mass; <https://jesuscaritasusa.org/>.
2. Christian Meditation grew out of Jesu Caritas and was a special project of Sr. Cecile. Mike Gracia became the group's anchor after Sr. Cecile's health required her retirement as parish administrator. For over a decade Mike faithfully gathered us every Tuesday evening at 6:30 for a reflection and 20 minutes of silent meditation until his death in 2023. The group still meets online at the same time and uses the same link as CPF meetings. Please reach out to Lois Harris after the Sunday mass; <https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/>  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/04/28/pope-francis-general-audience-prayer-meditation-jesus-240547>.
3. Parish Decorating Committee assists the pastor for preparation of the church for liturgical celebrations and in general; please reach out to Aileen McGovern after the Sunday mass.
4. St. Malachy Antiracism Committee was formed to respond to the mandate of "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism." Please see Ava, Angie, Maria or Stacy after the Sunday mass; <https://www.newencounters.org/>  
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts-enduring-call-love-pastoral-letter-against-racism;>  
[newencounterscatholics@gmail.com](mailto:newencounterscatholics@gmail.com).
5. CPF Phila began as a Catholic response to the Vietnam war with Fr. MacNamee and Sr. Cecile Reiley as early members; <https://www.cpfphila.com/>;  
<https://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/Sr.%20Cecile%20Reiley,%20Still%20With%20Us%20All%20These%20Years.html>.

The May 5 gathering will also be a place for all of us who participated in CPF newsletter with our subscribers to commemorate the many years of the newsletter's existence. This will be the

last issue of the newsletter as a composite of articles printed, mailed and since 2021 mostly emailed. Going forward other mechanisms will be considered to communicate with CPF supporters and CPFNL subscribers as well as outreach to others who may be interested. If you wish to support CPF for this event and future hospitalities including refreshments for future CPF events, please consider sending a tax-deductible donation check made out to St. Malachy and mail to 1429 N. 11th St. Philadelphia, PA 19122 and please mark in the memo 'CPF hospitality'.

**Please join us** at [www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicPeaceFellowship.Phila) and please feel free to respectfully post your thoughts & opinions on any newsletter article: <https://www.facebook.com/cpfnewsletter/>.

**Please join us** in person / online for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday meetings typically starting at 11:30 am; see future 2024 dates see below; feel free to email request meeting minutes for Jan, Feb, Mar. For Zoom Meeting Link or Phone Dial-in Meeting ID, please email us at [CPFphila@gmail.com](mailto:CPFphila@gmail.com) Using any phone, dial 929 205 6099 then, enter when prompted, the Meeting ID.

CPF 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday meeting schedule for remainder of 2024: the following dates are in person and virtual starting as early as 11:30 am: April 13, June 08, Sept. 08, Nov. 10 and Dec 08. At this point in time, the July 14 and Oct 13 meetings are tentative and in lieu of an August meeting, we are considering having a remembrance for Hiroshima and Nagasaki and commemorate Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter in the church right after the St. Malachy 10 am Sunday Mass. Please see updates on the CPF website, Facebook page and via email at [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com).

## **Good Friday Way of the Cross - morn for Gaza, Haiti, Sudan**

Good Friday, March 29, 2024, there will be the annual Way of the Cross through North Philadelphia led in the past by the late Fr. Neil Ver' Schneider, S.J. 1931-2021. This year we will lament the suffering in Gaza (Israel/Palestine) as well DRC, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, Ukraine, our own city streets and other places where violence crucifies.

Gathering at 12:45 pm at the Church of the Gesu (next to the entrance to St. Joseph Prep), participants at 1 pm will begin to pray and walk through the neighborhoods and conclude at St. Malachy's in time for the Good Friday Service.

As done since 2021 (for those who cannot make the walk) can join using Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97055451178> or listen in by dialing 929 205 6099, then enter when prompted the Meeting ID: 970 5545 1178 #.



Images from Good Friday April 2019



A Pressing Warning and Unremitting Hope for Humanity and our Planet!  
<https://nunspriestsbombsthefilm.com/>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 11 March 2024

**Contact:**

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## **U.S. Peace Activist Given Longest Prison Term in German Campaign to Oust U.S. Nuclear Bombs – First Ever U.S. Woman Sentenced to Prison in Decades-Long Effort**

Susan Crane, of the Redwood City, California Catholic Worker, has been sentenced to 229 days in prison in Germany for daring to interfere with the U.S. nuclear weapons stationed at Germany’s B chel Air Force base, southeast of Cologne.

Crane participated in six nonviolent go-in actions, confronting the air force system on base which routinely trains to drop the U.S. H-bombs on targets in Russia,[1] most provocatively this winter in operation “Steadfast Defender 24” — which was launched in the midst of NATO’s war in Ukraine.[2]

As a result of convictions on misdemeanor charges of trespass and damage to the chain-link fence, Crane was fined a total of twenty-five-hundred Euros. Now, for refusing to admit guilt or pay, a mid-level court on Jan. 18, 2024 ordered Crane to report June 4, 2024 to Rohrbach penitentiary, a 450-bed, co-ed in southwest Germany. Crane’s 7.6- month penalty is the longest prison sentence ever imposed in the 25-year-long series of rallies, protests, marches, peace camps, and civil resistance directed at the NATO nuclear weapons base. Crane is also the first U.S. woman to be ordered to German prison in the decades-long effort.

In 2018, and 2019, Crane and others were able to get inside the base and even climb atop earthen bunkers used to store both the nuclear weapons and German Tornado fighter jets. (See photo.) Dozens of Germans, as well as two other U.S. citizens and one Dutch national have done prison time in Germany for related go-in actions.

Between 2017 and 2021, Susan joined five delegations of U.S. anti-nuclear activists attending annual summer peace camps just outside the base — organized by Nukewatch and the local group Nonviolent Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Crane said in a statement March 6, “When we went on the base, we reminded the military that nuclear weapons are illegal and immoral. We asked them to resign their commissions, or, if ordered, to refuse to load the nuclear weapons on their Tornado fighter jets, or to drop them anywhere.”

“I thought the German courts would listen to the reasons we went onto the base, and understand that our peaceful actions were justified as acts of crime prevention. But international law was not respected,” Crane said.

According to legal scholars, the U.S. transfer of its nuclear weapons to Germany — formally a non-nuclear weapons state — is prohibited by the Treaty on Nonproliferation. Articles I and II of the treaty explicitly forbid any “transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons”. The U.S. nuclear bombs at Büchel are the 170-kiloton “B61-3,” and the 50-kiloton “B61-4.”[3]

Crane, who has two adult children and four grandchildren, has devoted her life in California to serving poor and often homeless people of Redwood City. In her statement, she said, “I see people living in camps, living in cars, and I see working people who don’t have enough income for basic needs like rent, food, or medical care. Then, I think of the money wasted on war-making by the U.S. and NATO nations; and that 3% of the U.S. military budget alone could end starvation around the world.”

Crane argued at trial that she was justified in attempting to interfere with an “ongoing criminal conspiracy”, the unlawful plan to wage wars of mass destruction, wars in violation of the Geneva Conventions and the Nuremberg Charter and Judgment. Crane appealed the convictions all the way to Germany’s highest court. However, it was dismissed without comment in the same way it has ignored 19 similar anti-nuclear protest case appeals. Susan then appealed to the European Court of Human Rights, in Strasbourg, France, just as five others in the campaign have done. (The ECHR hears appeals by defendants from 31 EU states who’ve exhausted legal redress in their respective countries.) Last December, the ECHR used a technicality to reject Crane’s appeal and did not address its merits. The ECHR has yet to decide whether to take up the appeals from the other weapons resisters.

“I don’t want to give money to the court system which I view as protecting nuclear weapons,” Crane said in her statement. “I don’t believe nonviolently resisting nuclear madness is wrong, and I don’t need to apologize for it. Paying a fine would be like admitting some guilt, while refusing is a way of withdrawing my cooperation from the courts, and from the judges who build a wall of silence and hide behind it. They deny that threatening mass destruction violates international law. I acted to uphold this law, but they pretend that treaties don’t apply in their courtrooms,” Crane said.

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For updates on Susan’s case see: [nukeresister@igc.org](mailto:nukeresister@igc.org) **Nukewatch**, 740A Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853 (715) 472-4185 [www.nukewatchinfo.org](http://www.nukewatchinfo.org)

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1] Reuters, “NATO to hold biggest drills since Cold War with 90,000 troops”, Jan. 18, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-kick-off-biggest-drills-decades-with-some-90000-troops-2024-01-18>; “NATO Holds Secret Nuclear War Exercises in Germany, Ignores Turkey,” Oct. 15, 2020, <https://see.news/nato-secret-nuclear-war-exercises-germany-ignores-turkey>; “Stop ‘Steadfast Noon’ Nuclear War Exercise Now!” Oct. 14, 2020; 2019 “Secret nuclear weapons exercise ‘Steadfast Noon’”, <https://www.bundeswehr-journal.de/2019/geheime-atomwaffeneubung-steadfast-noon>; 2017, “NATO nuclear weapons exercise unusually open,” <https://www.bundeswehr-journal.de/2019/geheime-atomwaffeneubung-steadfast-noon>; 2015, “NATO nuclear weapons exercise Steadfast Noon in Büchel”, <https://augengeradeaus.net/tag/steadfast-noon/>

2] <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/222847.htm> ; <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Steadfast-Defender-24/>

3] Hans M. Kristensen & Matt Korda, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 76:1, 46-60; <https://doi.org/10.1080/00963402.2019.1701286>





## **Christian-Jewish Allies** for a Just Peace for Israel/Palestine

To People of Faith, Good Will, and Moral Conscience,

Fifty-seven years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood at the pulpit of Riverside Church and gave his famous speech 'A Time to Break Silence.' With the same vision for peace which Dr. King held out for Vietnam and the world after Vietnam, we raise our voices to demand that the United States end its support for Israel's massacre of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, the destruction of its infrastructure, and the removal of its population from their ancestral home.

The statements of the Biden administration and its United Nations voting record make clear that the United States stands alone in providing massive military and diplomatic support for the reign of death and terror unfolding in Palestine and lacks the qualifications to be an honest broker of a just peace.

Dr. King observed in his Riverside Church speech that there are moments by which we shall be judged when the history of these times is written. This is one of those moments. As a nation we possess immense influence with which we can leverage negotiations in Israel in the pursuit of a just peace. Dr. King spoke of the "fierce urgency of NOW." This historic crisis presents us with the opportunity - and the obligation - to act with courage NOW.

Renowned activist and academic Angela Davis has identified the current crisis in Gaza and Palestine as "a moral litmus test for the West." We call upon our political leaders and those who look to us for moral guidance, to act now to end the suffering of innocents and the wholesale destruction of Palestinian society. At similar times in our nation's history, religious leaders have issued this very same call to our nation's conscience: addressing the civil rights struggle in our country, opposing the Vietnam War, and condemning apartheid in South Africa. At those times we passed the test -- and world leaders responded. We dare not fail the test today.

In the name of All That is Holy, we demand an immediate cessation of the support that our nation provides - in the form of political, diplomatic, financial, and military support - for the violence and killing of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. We demand a complete and permanent ceasefire, the facilitation of massive humanitarian aid, the resumption of UNRWA financial support, and a commitment to the restoration of Gaza's infrastructure.

And we demand from our religious and spiritual leaders concrete actions that cry out to heaven -- and to our government -- for a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

*The Reverend Judith Beck and Susan Landau,  
on behalf of  
Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for Israel-Palestine*

Dear Catholic Peace Fellowship Supporter,

We thank you all again for your interest and generosity. For past CPF newsletter articles please visit <http://www.cpfphila.com/Newsletters.html>; links most recent issues and appeal letters:

<https://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2023%20MAY/2023-05-Paschal-CPF-Newsletter.pdf>

<https://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2023%20MAY/2023-Appeal-Letter.pdf>

<https://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20DECEMBER/CPFNewsletter2022-Advent.pdf>

[http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/CPF\\_2022-03\\_Lent\\_Newsletter\\_final-r.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/CPF_2022-03_Lent_Newsletter_final-r.pdf) For all four of 2021 issues:

[http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20january%20pdf/jan\\_2021\\_pdf\\_final.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20january%20pdf/jan_2021_pdf_final.pdf)

[http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20APRIL/cpf\\_2021\\_04\\_final.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20APRIL/cpf_2021_04_final.pdf)

<http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20july%20pdf/cpf-2021-07.pdf>

<http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20october/cpf-2021-october.pdf> and [cpf\\_2021-11\\_advent\\_Newsletter](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20october/cpf_2021-11_advent_Newsletter.pdf) a revised version of October 2021 issue using new format suggested by Frank McGinty.

[http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/cpf\\_2021-11\\_advent\\_Newsletter\\_with\\_appeal\\_for\\_posting\\_only.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/cpf_2021-11_advent_Newsletter_with_appeal_for_posting_only.pdf)

We hope the next generation will take the legacy of CPF into the future and maybe re-start the CPF newsletter. For now, this will be the last issue in this multi-article format, which still includes mailing hard copies to those who have requested. We encourage subscribers to participate by posting thoughts, resource links and even articles to the CPF Facebook page.

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion on the website and postings, please send to [CPFnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CPFnewsletter@gmail.com). Articles should be limited to 1,000 words and please include a brief one-line bio. Photographs and graphics submissions can only be used with clear copyright compliant permission. We encourage passing on this final CPF Newsletter and since that may include black and white printouts, for the online version, active links and color images please see [www.cpfphila.com](http://www.cpfphila.com) or request an emailed PDF at [CPFnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CPFnewsletter@gmail.com).

Thank you, CPF Newsletter Final Edition Committee

**Catholic Peace Fellowship** meets most second Sunday of the month typically after the 10:00 am Mass at St. Malachy; please see our Facebook page for updates. If you are interested in attending, please email us at [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com) or [catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com).

A summary of Catholic Peace Fellowship expenditures: Membership in Pax Christi USA and website maintenance. We no longer have funds for event costs and a thank you gift to St. Malachy's for providing meeting center (in person and virtual). Please consider making a much-needed donation to St. Malachy Parish directly and thank them for hosting CPF and providing a place for the statue of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter by Robert McGovern:

<https://www.stmalachychurch.faith/index.html> and <https://www.stmalachychurch.faith/donations.html>;

Sunday Mass at St. Malachy's is at 10:00 am - 1429 N. 11th St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

Please consider supporting our mission of peace and help us to raise funds for events and continue to afford our website maintenance for which we are behind in our obligation.

Please see [CPF 2021 advent appeal letter.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/cpf_2021_advent_appeal_letter.pdf) (active link below).

Thank you,  
Catholic Peace Fellowship, Philadelphia

[http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/cpf\\_2021\\_advent\\_appeal\\_letter.pdf](http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2022%20March/cpf_2021_advent_appeal_letter.pdf)

**Pax Christi USA:** <https://paxchristiusa.org/>

<https://paxchristiusa.org/resources/statements/>

<https://paxchristiusa.org/events/>

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2022/06/02/the-color-of-peace/>

<https://paxchristiusa.org/backfromthebrink/>



Franz Jagerstatter,  
wood carving by Robert F. McGovern  
at St. Malachy's RC Church

# catholic peace FELLOWSHIP

Philadelphia Chapter of Pax Christi USA – [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org)

1429 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

[www.cpfphila.com](http://www.cpfphila.com) / [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com)

[cpfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cpfnewsletter@gmail.com)

[catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com)

Dear Catholic Peace Fellowship Supporter,

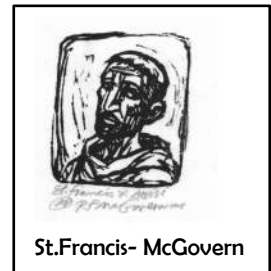
In 2019 the Catholic Peace Fellowship celebrated its 50-year anniversary. CPF Phila is a member of Pax Christi USA and we have joined together to bring a gospel-based perspective to peace, justice, and environmental issues.

We invite you to contribute to the program and the work of the CPF. Your donation can be a seed to allow this form of Catholic Peace Activism with its membership to Pax Christi USA, be a gift to the next generation. With the passing of our treasurer, please email [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com) for an update on the donation process after 2025.

Please make out your check to: Catholic Peace Fellowship and mail to:  
Catholic Peace Fellowship 1429 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

We thank you all again for your interest and generosity,

Catholic Peace Fellowship



Catholic Peace Fellowship Philadelphia meets most second Sunday's of the month virtually as early as 11:30 am which is typically also in person after the 10 am mass at St. Malachy's; please see our Facebook for virtual / in-person events status. If you are interested in attending, please email us at [catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com) / [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com). Donations are NOT tax deductible; see website for more information, how to donate and for copyright notice. Thank you, CPF Phila

To USPS mail: print double sided 12 pages (six sheets), fold in half and tape three side; add address and standard forever stamp on side below this line.

return address:

Catholic Peace Fellowship  
1429 North 11th Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19122



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by Robert F. McGovern  
tribute to  
Blessed Franz Jagerstatter

deliver to:

-  
.



The Good Samaritan by Robert McGovern