

CPF Bulletin Summer 2025



Image by Russ Hodin

Hope in an age of fires and floods
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https://cpfphila.com/Franz_And_Franziska_Jagerstatter.html

A matter of time **at the edge of human existence**

by Scott Fina, *his commentary was published (with links to its sources) on July 31, 2025 by the Santa Maria Times and also carried by the Lompoc Record, Hanford Sentinel, and Santa Ynez Valley News.*
https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/commentary/a-matter-of-time-at-the-edge-of-human-existence-guest-commentary/article_d6351263-a6d6-4153-b2a3-a3bcd300b4dc.html

August 6th and August 9th of this year mark the 80th anniversaries of the nuclear bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, by the United States. The bombing intentionally targeted civilians, over 200,000 of whom died from the attacks by the end of 1945. https://www.icanw.org/hiroshima_and_nagasaki_bombings continued on page 2

Updates on Environmental Justice Bill HB 109

by Barbara Sheehan, *EcoPhilly Leadership Team Member and CPF newsletter contributor.*

Those who attended our 2024 and 2025 EcoPhilly Summits will recall that our advocacy around environmental justice locally focuses on a PA House Bill to consider the cumulative impact of environmental costs in the state permitting process, especially in environmental justice areas.

Last year, we heard Representative Chris Rabb talk about the need for citizen activism to lobby for environmental justice and protection of the environment in the state legislature.

This year, Representative Greg Vitali spoke from the perspective of his leadership role in the PA House as the Democratic Chair of the Environmental Resources Committee. He is the co-sponsor with Rep. Rabb of HB 109, the revised cumulative impact bill that we are supporting. We are pleased to report that the bill passed in the Environmental Resources Committee on April 7 and will move to a vote on the house floor. <https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/2025/hb109>.

Here's How You Can Help

1. Please contact your state representative in the PA Legislature to let them know that you support HB 109. You can cite Laudato Si as your inspiration, or say that, as people of faith, we are called to care for creation, especially the most vulnerable among us. Check here for the contact info for your state representative. <https://www.palegis.us/find-my-legislator>
2. Take your activism one step further by accompanying us in the future on a bus to Harrisburg to lobby representative directly as we did on Tuesday June 3, 2025. These lobbying days are organized by Clean Water Action, represented at our Summit by Maurice Sampson, Eastern PA Director. Last two year's lobby days were exciting, inspiring, educational, and fun! <https://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2024%20SEPT/2024-07%20CPF%20Bulletin.pdf>
https://act.cleanwater.org/page/167877/subscribe/1?ea.tracking.id=website&fbclid=IwY2xjawJk4h9leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHioMAv4fgkIQWGbZt5rPHx0qfzTQkq5XIRIkzSlp2hpeFletrxDKMf7xltFF_aem_UGSf6I7tOYYERXGBsmZylw
3. And lastly, consider joining us for future events like, Adult Forum at St. Martin in the Fields Church in Chestnut Hill where I presented along with **Maurice Sampson** on May 28, 2025 at 7 pm. We spoke about environmental justice from an historical and faith-based perspective and demonstrated the incredible resource that the PA Enviro Screen provides in identifying degrees and sources of pollution across the state. For these events, all are welcome to attend in person or by Zoom. <https://www.stmartinec.org/upcoming-events>

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at sheebarb@yahoo.com.

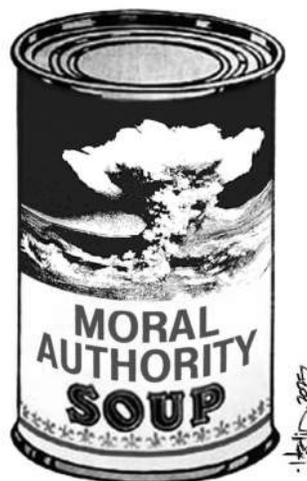


Image by Russ Hodin

A matter of time at the edge of human existence -continued from page 1

Albert Einstein was popularly affiliated with the creation of the atomic bomb, as suggested by the July 1, 1946 cover of Time Magazine, portraying him with a nuclear mushroom cloud in the background, labeled with his famous equation for his Special Theory of Relativity: $E= mc^2$ (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared).

(<https://content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19460701,00.html>) That, however, was an errant depiction of Einstein.

J. Robert Oppenheimer, who oversaw the “Manhattan Project,” is more accurately associated with the invention and production of the atomic bomb. (<https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/ahf/profile/j-robert-oppenheimer/>) Nonetheless, Einstein serves as an ideal historic figure to represent and characterize the origin, development, and significance of the Nuclear Age in which we live today.

Einstein died 70 years ago. A compelling biography of Einstein by Walter Isaacson (Einstein: His Life and Universe, Simon and Schuster, New York, NY, 2007) describes him as anti-authoritarian, creative, and imaginative: a brilliant and unconventional theorist, unafraid to think outside the box. According to Isaacson, it was such attributes that led Einstein to revolutionize the Newtonian physics that had dominated science in the early Twentieth Century.

And though the Special Theory of Relativity essentially equates energy and mass, it was Einstein’s revolutionary concept of time that led him to discover that immense energy could be garnered from a small amount of matter. Einstein’s innovative theorizing was a “matter of time” in which the speed of light was a constant, but the speed of time was variable and relative.

(<https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/einstein/time/a-matter-of-time>) The speed of time, according to Einstein, depends upon one’s frame of reference. Time and frame of reference also ably depict our Nuclear Age and Einstein’s role in it.

It’s fair to say that Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity initiated the Nuclear Age. (<https://history.aip.org/exhibits/einstein/nuclear1.htm> and <https://www.rem.routledge.com/articles/theory-of-relativity-the>) And while he did not personally participate in the invention of the atomic bomb, Einstein did play an important role that led to its eventual production.

At the request of other physicists, Einstein signed onto a letter in 1939 delivered to Franklin D. Roosevelt, warning the president that scientists in Nazi Germany were advancing their work on such a weapon that could be used against the United States. Roosevelt took the warning seriously, and eventually authorized the expansion and coordination of efforts to assure the U.S. won the race against Germany to produce atomic bombs, i.e., the Manhattan Project. (https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1939-1942/einstein_letter.htm and <https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/documents/beginnings/einstein.html>) That arms race eventually resulted in the August 1945 atomic bombings of Japan.

In time, Einstein came to deeply regret his letter to Roosevelt and what promised to become a threatening nuclear arms race when the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in 1949. (<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/august-29/soviets-explode-atomic-bomb>) In 1954, months before he died, Einstein admitted this regret to Linus Pauling, a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, stating that his letter was “the one great mistake in my life.” (<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20240801-it-was-the-one-great-mistake-in-my-life-the-letter-from-einstein-that-ushered-in-the-age-of-the-atomic-bomb>)

There was also a great paradox in Einstein’s life and role in the Nuclear Age. Einstein was a devoted pacifist throughout his adult life, and opposed war. (<https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/einstein/peace-and-war/europe-at-war> and <https://theamericanscholar.org/physicist-pacifist-anti-fascist/>) Moreover, as articulated in Isaacson’s book, Einstein valued humanity over nationalism. He realized that warfare and its monstrous weapons threatened the survival of humanity, which was increasingly becoming a globalized society.

Eighty years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we find our world awash in thermal nuclear weapons that if deployed, will wildly dwarf the impact of the atomic (fission) bombs used against Japan. Today nine nations including the U.S. possess nuclear weapons, while six other nations host them on behalf of nations that possess them. The Federation of American Scientists estimates that nuclear warheads currently number 12,241 globally.

(<https://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/status-world-nuclear-forces/>)

Bilateral and multilateral attempts to significantly limit and/or fully disarm our world of nuclear weapons have failed despite a plethora of nuclear treaties. The most prominent are the United Nations **Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** (1968), and most recently, the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** which entered into force in 2021 but has been ignored by all the nuclear states. (<https://www.armscontrol.org/treaties> ; www.armscontrol.org)

As we move into its 81st year, one wonders whether the long duration of the Nuclear Age that has avoided nuclear war has been miraculous, or instead, deceptively normalized.

Is this not a matter of time and frame of reference?

Some of us see humanity standing at the edge, waiting for an inevitable nuclear apocalypse to be spawned by something like the escalating NATO involvement in the current Russian-Ukraine conflict. Others, if not most, suppress such thoughts and go through life acting as if nuclear weapons don't exist.

The U.S. has the world's most powerful nuclear arsenal. Yet, according to the Arms Control Association, the U.S. is modernizing its nuclear weapons and delivery systems at a cost of \$1.5 trillion. (<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/us-modernization-2024-update>) Is this not insane?

The U.S. brought nuclear weapons into the world, and is the only nation to have used them. Is not our country morally obligated to resolve the nuclear quagmire that hangs over humanity?

Perhaps we could imitate Einstein's unconventional and imaginative thought process. In that vein, should not the U.S. consider unilaterally disarming itself of nuclear weapons to inspire and lead the other nuclear states to abandon them as well?

The intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system used to deliver land-based nuclear warheads is periodically tested at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). The missileers who might be called to launch the armed ICBMs in an actual nuclear conflict are trained at VSFB. A peaceful protest by the main gate of VSFB condemning nuclear weapons is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The base directs participants to park at the nearby Vandenberg Middle School. All peace-seeking folks are invited.

Pope Leo: We are with the young people of Gaza, Ukraine and war-torn lands

Vatican News: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-08/pope-we-are-with-young-people-of-gaza-ukraine-war-torn-lands.html>

At the conclusion of the closing Mass for the Jubilee of Youth, Pope Leo remembers young people suffering "the most serious evils" caused by other human beings, mentioning specifically war-torn Gaza, Ukraine, and "every land bloodied by war."

Just before the conclusion of the closing Mass for the Jubilee of Young People at Rome's Tor Vergata field, Pope Leo expressed his closeness and solidarity with the young people suffering in Gaza, Ukraine and all those living in war-torn parts of the world.

“In communion with Christ, our peace and hope for the world, we are closer than ever to young people who suffer the most serious evils which are caused by other human beings. We are with the young people of Gaza. We are with the young people of Ukraine, with those of every land bloodied by war. My young brothers and sisters, you are the sign that a different world is possible, a world of fraternity and friendship, where conflicts are not resolved with weapons but with dialogue.” - Pope Leo XIV



Images from EcoPhilly 2025 – Hope in an Age of Fires and Floods



EcoPhilly and Clean Water Action-PA 6/3/25



Advocating for Environmental Justice in PA.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION LAUDATE DEUM OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html
<https://www.mobilize.us/network/> <https://www.mobilize.us/network/event/679889/>

<https://brooklynpeace.org/catholic-church-and-nuclear-weapons/>

Pope Leo on the 80 years since the atomic bombing of Japan:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/w3v3DeGuIB8>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2025-08/cardinal-cupich-anniversary-hiroshima-bombing-mass-peace-atomic.html>

CPF 2025 Schedule of Meetings and Activities

August 10 we are planning a brief prayerful remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with a commemoration of Franz and Franziska to immediately follow the 10 Mass in the St Malachy church; see page 11. This will also be available on the typical zoom link and the parish FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/100088184492879/videos> | https://cpfphila.com/Franz_And_Franziska_Jagerstatter.html

Zoom Link typically used for 2nd Sundays CPF meetings planned for Aug. through Dec:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605561453?pwd=KrkunCbyWCwRheW96ChOHldxHINTXK.1>

LENTEN RETREAT, **Renew Your Spirit of Hope**; Co-sponsored by several parish groups and CPF Phila was held Saturday, April 12 in the St. Malachy Parish Hall after a 9:00 AM Mass and ended at 12:30 PM with brown bag lunch for post retreat lunch fellowship; drinks were provided. Facilitators were Fr. George Bur, Angie & Phil Berryman, Ava & Francesco Zampetti.

Images from the Retreat:



Images from Annual Good Friday Way of the Cross on April 18, 2025 with PTG:



See pages 11-15 of http://www.cpfphila.com/ARTICLES/2021%20january%20pdf/jan_2021_pdf_final.pdf.

Pierre Toussaint Group (PTG) champions the canonization of Venerable Pierre Toussaint and his wife Juliette Noel, along with Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God Julia Greeley, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille, and Venerable Father Augustus Tolton:

https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Article_archdiocese-of-miami-6-black-catholics-on-the-road-to-sainthood.interested.

Images from Fr. Richard Withers ordination to the priesthood at the Cathedral on May 17



Images from St. Malachy Hospitality on May 18, 2025 to celebrate Fr. Mac



On May 18, 2025, CPF again cosponsor 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 have also join us in this effort: St. Malachy Antiracism Committee and the Property and Building Committee. We hope in 2026, CPF supporters can again join us for a third Sunday in May hospitality as well as the 2026 Pentecost celebration; see page 9.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these groups sooner; please feel free to email us at 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 the late 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. 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. To join contact Lois Harris; <https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/> <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/04/28/pope-francis-general-audience-prayer-meditation-jesus-240547>
3. Property and Building Committee is a newly forming group to assist the pastor for identifying and addressing concerns of the parish properties and buildings. If you have a skill set or an interest, please reach out to Ralph or Francesco 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." - USCCB <https://www.newencounters.org/> Please see Adaobi, Angie, Ava, Maria, or Naomi after mass; <https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts-enduring-call-love-pastoral-letter-against-racism> newencounterscatholics@gmail.com. <https://catholicphilly.com/2024/06/commentaries/new-encounters-ministry-helps-parishes-respond-to-archbishops-pastoral-letter-on-racism/>
5. CPF Phila began as a Catholic response to the Vietnam War and the Nuclear Arms Race 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%20%20All%20These%20Years.html>

Teresa Benedetta della Croce Edith Stein (1891-1942) <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-teresa-benedicta-of-the-cross/> <https://www.carmelitedcj.org/carmel/saints-of-carmel/162-st-teresa-benedicta-of-the-cross>

Images from **St. Malachy 2025 Pentecost Celebration** led by St. Malachy Antiracism Committee. CPF members supported this celebration of St. Malachy's diverse community which preempted the CPF Phila June meeting.





St. Malachy Parishioners organizing to Protect Immigrants; please see CPF Facebook page and follow up emails for updates <https://www.facebook.com/catholicpeacefellowship.phila/>, see next page.

A Pope Francis's Prayer For Immigrants:

Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.

May we never forget them, but honor their sacrifice with deeds more than words. We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

Blessed Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter

For the August 10 planned prayerful remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with commemoration of Franz and Franziska, the following will be read:

We Remember all of the St. Malachy family who have lost a loved one through violence. And all throughout our city and world who are victims of wars and violence; (**Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine...**).

As We Pray that you, O God, may glorify your servants Franz and Franziska, so that many people may be encouraged by them and grow in love for you and all people.

May their example shine out in our time, and may you grant all people the strength to stand up for justice, peace and human dignity.

For yours is the glory and honour now and forever. AMEN (adapted from the prayer of Linz Diocese, Austria)

Brief history: Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter were Austrian farmers in 1939 when Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany. March 2, 1943 Franz refuses the oath of induction for conscription into the Nazi military as "contrary to his Catholic faith". At the time the Jägerstätters had three daughters under six years. August 9, 1943 Franz is beheaded for his refusal to take the oath; October 26, 2007 Franz is declared Blessed of the Catholic Church by Pope Benedict XVI; March 16, 2013 Franziska dies shortly after celebrating her 100th birthday in the farming village of St. Radegund.

...The witness for which we honour Franz Jägerstätter was a joint witness.

His decision to resist to the death was made with his wife Franziska. ... His was the dramatic action; hers to live out that act of resistance ... -Bishop Tom Gumbleton, 1987.

For more info on the Jägerstätters see statue/prayer cards in front of the church of which we hope will become a place of pilgrimage to St. Malachy. https://cpfphila.com/Franz_And_Franziska_Jagerstatter.html

catholic peace FELLOWSHIP

Philadelphia Chapter of Pax Christi USA – www.paxchristiusa.org

1429 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

www.cpfphila.com / cpfphila@gmail.com

cpfnewsletter@gmail.com

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; please email cpfphila@gmail.com for the update to the donation process. Please visit our website cpfphila.com for links to past CPF newsletter articles and appeal letters and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/catholicpeacefellowship.phila/>.

We hope the next generation will take the legacy of CPF into the future and maybe re-start the CPF newsletter to return to a formal format. 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 cpfphila@gmail.com. Articles ideally 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 the 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 or request an emailed PDF at cpfphila@gmail.com and also at <https://www.facebook.com/catholicpeacefellowship.phila/>.

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 cpfphila@gmail.com. Donations are now through the parish and tax deductible; see website for more information, how to donate and for copyright notice. Thank you, CPF

return address:

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



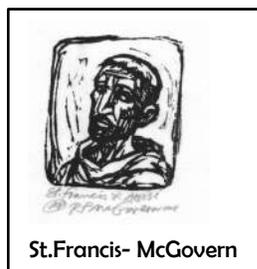
Door to the Path Taken
by Robert F. McGovern
tribute to
Blessed Franz Jagerstatter

deliver to:

-
-



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



St.Francis- McGovern



The Good Samaritan by Robert McGovern