

CPF Bulletin Late Summer 2025

PAX Christi online meeting

October 13, 4:30pm – page 3

Blessed Franz - Pray for Peace

Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Minnesota

https://cpfphila.com/Franz_And_Franziska_Jagerstatter.html

Blessed Franz Jaegerstaetter and wife Franziska
Franz 1907 – 1943 Franziska 1913 - 2013

CPF is working for the canonization of The
Jägerstätters ...

Franziska at the same time as Franz.

The horror at a Catholic school in Minnesota is connected to the horror of a proxy war killing 10s of 1000s in the Sudan and elsewhere: primarily the unchecked business of making and selling guns / weapons. So to the horror of the Israeli State continued genocide of starving and killing the people of Gaza and all with US weapons and financial backing! – page 3

Mary Queen of Peace, Pray for us all

U.S. Department of War - a fitting but lamentable rebranding

by Scott Fina, *his commentary was published (with links to its sources) on September 5, 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/u-s-department-of-war-a-fitting-but-lamentable-rebranding-guest-commentary/article_e712d7e3-08a0-4673-a264-5b3c7502aa8e.html

On August 25 during a meeting in the Oval Office, President Trump announced his intention to change the name of the U.S. Department of Defense to the “Department of War.” (<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/08/25/trump-pentagon-name-change-00523335>) Days later, U.S.

Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, likely inspired Trump’s plan to change the name of his department. On January 25, the day he was sworn in as secretary, Hegseth released a “Message to the Force” calling for such things as a “warrior ethos,” remaining “the strongest and most lethal force in the world,” and achieving “Peace through Strength.” (<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4040940/secretary-hegseths-message-to-the-force/>)

Wow, is that ever a warring mindset!

Congress originally established a Department of War in 1789.

(<https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Experience/The-History-of-the-Department-of-Defense/#:~:text=AUGUST%20%2C%201789,Army%2C%20Navy%20and%20Marine%20Cor>)

ps.) It was not until 1949 that the name of “Department of Defense” was adopted. (<https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Experience/The-History-of-the-Department-of-Defense/#1949>) In the aftermath of the Second World War (WWII) with its massive devastation and massacres, national defense had become a far more complex and expansive enterprise than outright military force—especially with the coming of the nuclear age.

The title, “Department of War,” however, does reflect how the U.S. military has been involved in many conflicts since WWII, most of which were questionably justified, and few of which were efficacious.

Millions of Americans believed the United States should have never waged war in Vietnam. It accomplished nothing, but resulted in not only the loss of over 58,000 U.S. military personnel, but also deaths estimated at over 3-million North and South Vietnam fighters and civilians, according to the Associated Press. (<https://apnews.com/general-news-b21dc4a9624040b9b3cd740b488095c7>)

Yet, the U.S. learned little from the Vietnam War, and readily entered into additional unwinnable, unjustified, and costly military conflicts.

Consider our nation’s longest war, fought in Afghanistan, spanning two decades (2001 to 2021) and resulting in the deaths of more than 2,000 U.S. soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Afghans, according to “Foreign Affairs”. (<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/anthologies/2021-05-14/americas-longest-war#>) The war began with the Taliban in charge, who were targeted by the U.S. for harboring terrorists, and also ended with the Taliban in charge.

Then there was the war with Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, launched by the U.S. in March of 2003 and ended with the withdrawal of U.S. troops in December of 2011. According to the “George W. Bush Presidential Library”, over 4,400 Americans and approximately 100,000 Iraqis were killed in the conflict. (<https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/the-iraq-war>)

A recent study by the Pew Research Center, “A Look Back at How Fear and False Beliefs Bolstered U.S. Support for War in Iraq,” describes how the war was falsely “justified” on unfounded claims about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction and connections to al-Qaida terrorists. The American populace, which initially got behind the war, was duped by the Bush Administration which had aims to take military action against Iraq prior to 9-/11.

(<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/03/14/a-look-back-at-how-fear-and-false-beliefs-bolstered-u-s-public-support-for-war-in-iraq/>)

It seems that post WWII, warring has been wired into the American DNA, rendering U.S. soldiers and innocent civilians around the world, expendable.

Sadly, there was a different path American society might have gone down, under the leadership of President John F. Kennedy (JFK), were it not abruptly ended by his assassination in November of 1963.

The greatest challenge Kennedy faced as president was his handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962, an incident that brought the world to the very edge of nuclear war between the Soviet Union and U.S. (<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis>) I believe JFK was shaken and moved deeply by the experience, which transformed his leadership.

Seven months after the crisis, JFK gave a commencement address at American University in June of 1963. It was likely the greatest speech on peacemaking ever made by a U.S. president. The speech was profuse with “peace ethos”. Readers can access its transcript on the JFK

Presidential Library webpage. (<https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources/john-f-kennedy-speeches/american-university-19630610>)

What JFK described in his peace address is a very different America, one that respects other nations and treasures humanity. It presents an America that tries to lead, rather than rule the nations around the world. Consider these comments among the many profound statements in JFK's address:

“What kind of peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. ... I am talking about ...the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, ... that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children--not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women--not merely peace in our time but peace for all time.

I speak of peace because of the new face of war. Total war makes no sense in an age when great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces. It makes no sense in an age when a single nuclear weapon contains almost ten times the explosive force delivered by all the allied air forces in the Second World War. It makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn.”

Today there is a movement in Congress that began in 2001, echoing JFK's thinking on peace. Last February, Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar reintroduced a bill in the House calling for the creation of a cabinet level, “Department of Peacebuilding”. The bill, H.R. 1111, currently has 37 Democratic cosponsors and sits in the “House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.” (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1111>)

The bill's mission includes, in part, cultivating “peacebuilding as a strategic national policy objective”, preventing “violence in the United States and internationally through peacebuilding and effective nonviolent conflict resolution,” strengthening “nonmilitary means of peacemaking,” taking “a proactive, strategic approach in the development of field-tested best practices and policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of conflict, and addressing “the interconnection of all life and the intersectionality of peace and justice, equality, health, healing, national security, education, the economy, rule of law, democracy, planetary survival, and other aspects of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights.” (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1111/text>)

Let's hope for such a different America!

Reminder: PAX Christi online meeting October 13, 4:30pm

Please email us at CPFphila@gmail.com if you wish to join us.

Second Sunday CPF Phila meeting After the 10 am Mass at
St. Malachy 1429 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 Starting about 11:45pm
9/14/25 Meeting Agenda: Pax Christi USA: info from 9/8 meeting & CPF response to **GAZA genocide**

CPF Phila - Second Sunday - Link for July thru Dec 2025

Join Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605561453?pwd=KrkuNCbymCwRheW96ChOHldxHINTXK.1>

Meeting ID: 816 0556 1453

Passcode: 074595

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, 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

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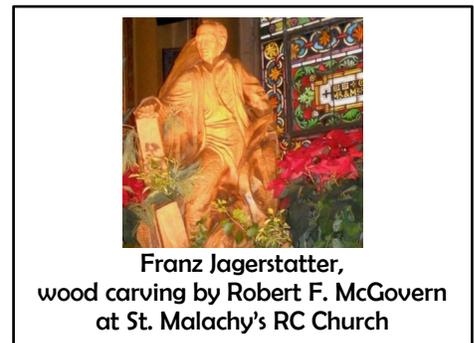
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1429 North 11th Street,
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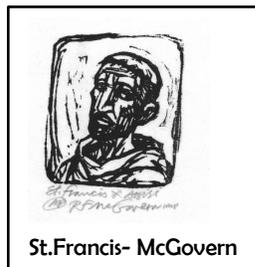
**Door to the Path Taken
by Robert F. McGovern
tribute to
Blessed Franz Jagerstatter**

deliver to:

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



St. Francis- McGovern



The Good Samaritan by Robert McGovern