

Pennsylvania Pax Christi – 2025 launch

For report and next online meeting set for MLK Monday 4:30 PM, 19 January 2026 – page 3

Remembering Fr. Dave Gracie 1932 - 2001

Reverend David Mci Gracie, in addition to being an Episcopal priest, author, CWI, AFSC staff member was a lifelong peace and justice activist and friend of CPF's Fr. John McNamee. Our website CPFphila.com and the CPF Newsletter for the second time in recent years have received a generous donation in the honored and loving memory of Fr. Dave Gracie. - page 4

CPFphila and CPFNL 2025 end of year report

CPF Phila with great hope and joy is glad to announce our community becoming an extension of the newly formed Pennsylvania Pax Christi. Fall 2025 and next year events with photos - page 5

When the Press Fails the People

by Scott Fina

Scott's commentary was published by the Santa Maria Times and also carried by the Lompoc Record, Hanford Sentinel, and Santa Ynez Valley News. See the link to the published article here:

https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/columnists/when-the-press-fails-the-people-guest-commentary/article_4223ae0a-ea1a-430f-a5b5-61fd6a077994.html

Consider the following, published statement that concerns our nation's defense:

"America must prepare for the future of war. ... You might be thinking America should focus on peace, not war. But one of the most effective ways to prevent a war is to be strong enough to win it."

Are these not disquieting words? Do they not suggest that our nation is war bound, yet, it is unprepared to defend itself? And this is despite the fact that according to the [Peter G. Peterson Foundation](#), the U.S. spends more on defense than the next nine nations combined, including China and Russia?

Readers might reasonably assume that this published statement, putting peace-seeking aside, was voiced by someone like U.S. Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth. That's not exactly the case, however.

The source of the statement is a video opinion issued by the New York Times editorial board on December 8, 2025. The editorial board's opinion is titled, "[America Must Prepare for the Future of War](#)".

In the video opinion, the editorial board claims that “war in the 21st century has fundamentally changed” and calls for the U.S. to “reform not just its military, but also the political processes for funding it and the industrial base that supports it.”

The NY Times draws these conclusions on the basis of a leaked, classified Pentagon document. The document focuses on a potential U.S. war with China over the independence of Taiwan, in which the U.S. loses. The NY Times notes how Pete Hegseth warns that China wins in all of the Pentagon’s war games against it. The NY Times also claims China President Xi Jinping has threatened to seize Taiwan by 2027. (According to “Defense News”, however, [President Xi publicly denied this.](#))

So, there’s the NY Times telling American political and military leaders what they need to do, and sounding alarms around the world. I find this conduct by the NY Times troubling, and familiar.

I am reminded of February 15, 2003, when I joined thousands of protestors in Center City Philadelphia—among [millions of others in over 600 cities](#) around the world--calling on the U.S. to refrain from invading Iraq.

At the time, inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspections Commission, were determining whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The U.S. argued that Iraq had such weaponry and planned to use it. Iraq declared that it had none.

The U.N. inspectors had already conducted over [900 inspections at more than 500 sites](#) and found no WMDs. They intended to continue their searches but the U.S. decided to take action and began its invasion on March 19, 2003.

In reality, Iraq had no WMDs, and what commenced was an eight-year war and [the deaths of thousands of soldiers and approximately 200,000 Iraqi civilians.](#)

The war on Iraq was unjustified. The U.S. political and military leadership had gotten it wrong. So had the NY Times, when on February 15, 2003, its editorial board published an opinion, “[Disarming Iraq](#)”, supporting the invasion of Iraq by the U.S.—the very same day when millions of people had protested against it.

There was very little indication that Iraq had WMDs. Many people, including myself, believed the U.S. intended to invade Iraq regardless of whether there was any imminent or real threat from WMDs. The U.S. had not done its homework on an Iraqi threat, and few of us protesting expected it to do so.

But many Americans, including myself, expected the NY Times to look deeper into the claims by the U.S. And although the Times had (and still has) a substantial pool of journalists and extensive national influence, the paper had not genuinely investigated the situation. On May 26, 2004, the NY Times editorial board admitted it had [not carried out a sufficient examination](#) of the claims by U.S. political and military leaders.

I believe the NY Times has it wrong again in its call for a reformation of the U.S. military and its production of weaponry in a potential war with China. In its December 8 video opinion, the editorial board refers to more advanced and affordable conventional weaponry in possession of, and ongoing production by China. But I argue, it’s not so much a matter of the nature of war changing in the 21st century, but the nature of existing technology and society itself, which has become globalized and interconnected. The issue here concerns the most formidable WMDs: nuclear weapons, which are abundant.

Neither the U.S. nor China has indicated that it is willing to disarm itself of nuclear weapons, nor has any other nuclear power. And unless the U.S. is willing to step aside and allow China to eventually annex Taiwan—which promises to be a two-sided bloodbath even if both China and Taiwan employ conventional weapons—there will likely be a nuclear conflict.

Here I refer to the current (2022) [U.S. Nuclear Posture Review](#) which holds, as justifiable, a preemptive, first strike nuclear option against a nonnuclear attack. I've wondered how the U.S. might "justify" taking such a first nuclear strike. I see the U.S. involvement in a conflict with China over Taiwan, as being a likely candidate.

All this is to say, that any war between the U.S. and China will have no victors. That goes for any conflict between nuclear powers.

And if there is preparation for war as a means to peace as suggested by the NY Times editorial board, then it's more likely there will be war and not peace.

Freedom of the press in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is an essential safeguard for Americans. The press can be powerful, and must be critical and courageous, but also careful.

Pennsylvania Pax Christi – 2025 launch

Initially facilitated by Pax Christi USA, some of us in CPF Phila for the last three months of 2025 have been meeting with others across PA from Pax Christi USA chapters in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, with individuals and groups from Chester Co. and across Philly and PA. We agreed to form Pennsylvania Pax Christi and to meet online on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for the MLK Holiday on Monday, 19 January 2026.

CPF Phila members have offered to put the CPF newsletter and our Facebook pages in the service of this new mission. The CPF newsletter Facebook page now has the title **Pennsylvania Pax Christi** but FB rules will not allow us to change the URL which must still read <https://www.facebook.com/cpfnewsletter/>.

In the future we may opt to have a PA Pax Christi dedicated email; for the time being we can offer cpfnewsletter@gmail.com and its underuse FB page. For links to the meeting minutes and to join the next meeting please email a request to all the following to ensure a timely response:

pqhpaxchristi@gmail.com, **Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi**

cpfnewsletter@gmail.com, catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com, cpfphila@gmail.com,

info@paxchristiusa.org and sniamke@paxchristiusa.org **Pax Christi USA**

Reminder: PA Pax Christi online meeting January 19, 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 11:45 pm

CPF Phila - Second Sunday - Link for 11 Jan 2026; Join Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605561453?pwd=KrkuNCbymCwRheW96ChOHldxHINTXK.1>

Meeting ID: 816 0556 1453

Passcode: 074595

Remembering Fr. Dave Gracie

In May of 2001, Fr. Gracie's funeral was held at the Church of the Advocate in North Philadelphia just a few blocks west on Diamond Street from Temple University where he served as chaplain throughout the 1980s before working at American Friends Service Committee in the early 1990s. Fr. Gracie along with his friend, Fr. John McNamee, was active in the anti-Vietnam War and Anti-nuclear proliferation peace movements. At the Church and World Institute, Temple University's Protestant Campus Ministry, Dave was co-director with The Rev. Joan M. Martin, Ph.D. and where environmental, social and racial justice rounded out his lifelong commitment to labor rights and justice for working people, for this son of Detroit, MI.

CPFphila.com and CPF Newsletter are grateful for the generous donations given in his memory and hope to continue to honor Fr. Gracie by providing more information about him in future CPF Newsletters.

The following are a list of books Rev. Gracie served as narrator/editor, translator/editor, and in the case of his dear friend Fr. Paul Washington, helped compiled Fr. Washington's sermons and essays to tell the life story of the Church of the Advocate's longtime pastor and Episcopal priest.

"Other Sheep I Have" The Autobiography of Father Paul M. Washington

by Paul Washington (Author), David Mci Gracie (Editor/Narrator).

Gandhi and Charlie: The Story of a Friendship

by C. F. Andrews (Author), Mahatma Gandhi (Author), David Mci Gracie (Editor/Narrator).

Meditating on the Word

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Author), David Mci Gracie (Editor/Translator).

<https://phila.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1225658&GUID=A985030D-37D4-4935-B931-92B7485568BA&Options=&Search=>

<https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/35-august-1-15-1967/two-hundred-honor-rev-gracie/>

https://digitalarchives.episcopalarchives.org/the_witness/pdf/1988_Watermarked/Witness_19881101.pdf

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1990/12/08/veteran-activist-preaches-quaker-values-of-peace-negotiation/0d469a1b-1986-40e9-9b80-f2ab6dfa325b/>



The Good Samaritan by Robert McGovern

CPFphila and CPFNL 2025 end of year report

In addition to being a part of Pennsylvania Pax Christi, CPF received another large donation (see Remembering Fr. Dave Gracie) to directly support maintaining www.CPFphila.com and cover expenses for the next year as well as providing additional funding for expansion. Another goal is to add a link for online donations for this resource to be available for years to come. We are very grateful to Maryellen Bradley for her years of support and covering the website fees.

CPFNL editorial policy includes publishing every article received from previous contributors; special thanks to Scott Fina and Barbara Sheehan for keeping us issuing bulletins in 2025. We encourage our readers to submit articles and only request they are already proofread.

Other activities, beyond EcoPhilly, for some of our members, has included involvement in New Encounters: Catholics Confronting Racism, with others across the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the St. Malachy Anti-racism Committee, at the local parish level. The following montage is of various activities in Fall of 2025, and on page 7 a poster for an upcoming event at St. Malachy on MLK Sunday 3 pm, 18 January 2026.



Fall 2025 meeting for New Encounters at Cathedral with visit to the Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel



Pilgrimage from St. Malachy via The Gesu (Christ of North Philly) to The Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel



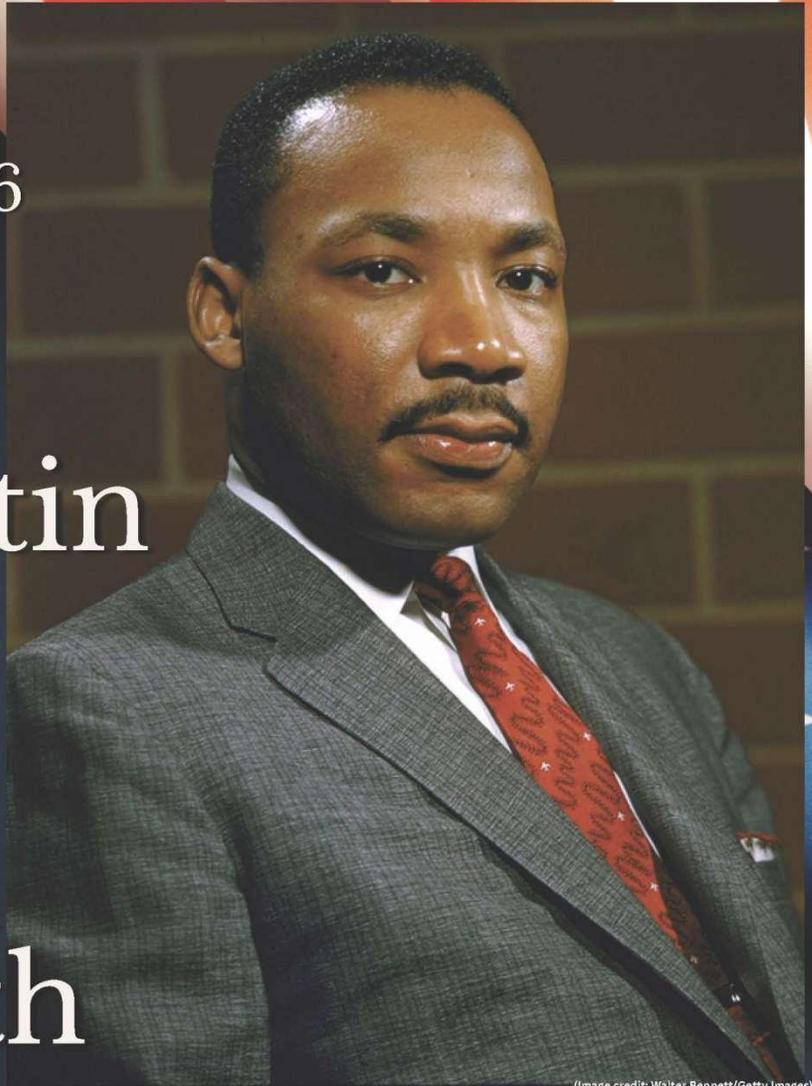
Solidarity with our Mexican neighbors - Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 Dec 25 - Cathedral in Camden, NJ



Christmas 2025 at St. Malachy, parish host for CPF Phila since the 1980s

Sunday,
18 January, 2026
3pm

Dr. Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Interfaith
Prayer
Service



(Image credit: Walter Bennett/Getty Images)

St Malachy Catholic Church

1429 N 11th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

215-763-1305
info@stmalachyphilly.org

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki
Parochial Administrator

Sponsored by the Office for Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

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 an 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 cpfnewsletter@gmail.com and 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 Sundays 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, for copyright notice, how to donate, and hopefully soon to make an online donation to support the website and media outreach. 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:

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