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St. Malachy Antiracism Committee Pentecost Hospitality

Pentecost Sunday of 2026 will be May 24. St. Malachy Antiracism Committee will co-sponsor with other parish groups and **CPF** the 2nd Pentecost hospitality after the Sunday Mass. - page 3

A Holy Week in Search of Liberation and Peace

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/commentary/a-holy-week-in-search-of-liberation-and-peace-scott-fina/article_e0bd8840-4c9d-44df-b27d-2c155a20ab25.html

“Holy Week” for [over a billion](#) Roman Catholics and many other Christians began on Palm Sunday, March 29. It concludes with the Easter [Triduum](#): Holy Thursday, focused on the “Last Supper”, Good Friday, recognizing the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, and the Easter Vigil (or Holy Saturday into Easter Sunday), concluding with the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

This year the Triduum occurs during “[Passover](#)” (April 1 through April 9), a time when Jewish people commemorate the liberation of the ancient Israelites from their enslavement by the Egyptians, depicted in the Hebrew (Old) Testament Book of Exodus.

It’s interesting how Christianity adopted (or appropriated) so many of the Hebrew texts in the Bible. Not surprisingly, Christians come at Scripture from varying perspectives, some taking biblical text literally, others seeing it as mostly story, but with moral meaning or principles.

There is certainly inconsistency in the Bible for Christians. For example, in the Book of Exodus, God hands down the Ten Commandments (Decalogue) to the Israelite people through Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:2-17). Christians supposedly follow these biblical dictums. One is: “Thall shall not kill.” But

God, in the Old Testament, kills lots of people, beginning with angrily bringing a flood upon almost all human beings in the Book of Genesis (6:9 – 9:28).

So should we be surprised that Christians have supported and/or turned a blind eye to, the mass slaughtering of people, as in waging numerous wars, carrying out the genocide of ethnic peoples (including the Jewish Holocaust), and the development and possession of nuclear weaponry that can annihilate humanity?

One could argue, however, that there is a radical divide between the Old and Christian (New) Testaments in the Bible—and this is where Jesus of Nazareth makes a difference for many Christians. For the most part, the Gospels have Jesus expressing kindness, forgiveness and nonviolence. Could there be a more humane oration than the Sermon on the Mount? (Matthew 5-7) And isn't the Gospel of John jam packed with notions of love? It's almost as if God had grown gentler with age in the New Testament.

Yet, many Christians prioritize the concept of Jesus dying violently for humanity's sins, paying a necessary "ransom" to a God who causes his son to be tortured and crucified. (Mark 10:45, Timothy 2:5-6, and 1 Peter 1:18-19). In fact, there is a declaration during the Roman Catholic Holy Saturday vigil, called the "[Exsultet](#)", proclaiming the arrival of Easter that incorporates a ransom. The Exsultet includes the liberation of "Israel's children from slavery in Egypt", and reads in another part as follows:

"O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!"

Here again is a confusing image of God—one who is commonly described as almighty, but seems incapable of unconditional forgiveness.

There's little evidence of the existence or life of Jesus of Nazareth outside the New Testament. The [Biblical Archeology Society](#) describes how a Jewish historian named Josephus, born a few years after the death of Jesus, makes a quick reference to him in a book titled, *Jewish Antiquities*. Josephus notes that Jesus was called a messiah, and was executed by the Romans. This might be the best indication of Jesus dying on behalf of his own people.

So I look to other, more contemporary historical figures to give me confidence that Jesus was real—and in some way the son of a loving God. There are Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who sought liberation and justice for their people, compelling them to adopt nonviolence in moving hearts and minds—and who died for their sake—following the example of Jesus.

There are also dedicated peace activists I have known personally, such as religious [Sister Anne Montgomery](#), Jesuit [Father Steve Kelly](#), and Catholic Worker/[grandmother Susan Crane](#). These folks have participated in the Plowshares movement, taking to heart the calling by the prophet Isaiah (2:4) in the Old Testament to "beat swords into plowshares ... and war no more". They have gone onto military

bases involved with the nuclear weaponry systems, and committed nonviolent, symbolic, civil disobedience such as hammering on missiles. They are among other folks who have gone to prison, sacrificing a major part of their lives, promoting nuclear disarmament.

And there are times when art has inspired me to seek peace and nonviolence.

I was fortunate to attend the 1964-65 World's Fair in Queens, New York, as a young cub scout from New Jersey. This was a spectacular adventure for me. What struck me most, was the marble sculpture created by Renaissance artist Michelangelo Buonarroti in 1498-1499, the [Pietà](#), which had been [transported from St. Peter's Basilica](#) in the Vatican City of Rome, and seen by millions of people attending the fair.

The Pietà portrays Mary, the mother of Jesus, holding her murdered son, laying on her lap. I found the statue to be lifelike, and almost hypnotic. Here also were depictions of two Jews, bridging the Old and New Testaments, and two religions.

I saw the Pietà again 43 years later in St. Peter's Basilica—its regular location, and spent some time viewing it. The statue was strikingly human: a mother holding her lifeless son, finding it hard to let him go. There was no indication of a pending resurrection, or assumption into heaven, or crowning of a heavenly king. There was just profound love, and love lost.

More recently, the Pietà has taken on a different image for me. I envision mothers holding their lifeless children in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, on streets in deteriorating neighborhoods of American cities, and so many other places around the world.

NEXT CPF MEETINGS: June 14 and July 12

April 12 will be an informal in person only gathering at St. Malachy Parish April hospitality in the parish hall after the Sunday mass. Please join in person, if you can, but also, please consider joining us online on April 20 for the Pax Christi PA meeting held every 3rd Monday at 4:30 pm; see pages 4 and 5. Please also consider joining the St. Malachy Antiracism Committee meeting on April 19th to plan for **May 24th** Pentecost Sunday Hospitality of which CPF and other extra-parish and parish groups supported last year.

We hope to have 2nd annual Peace Mass on August 9; No meeting that day or in May.

June 14, and July 12 Agenda: St. Malachy Annual Peace Mass on August 9.

Second Sunday CPF Phila meeting After the 10 am Mass at St. Malachy 1429 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 Starting online about 11:45 pm
Please email CPFphila@gmail.com for **New** Zoom Meeting Link.

May 24th Pentecost Sunday St. Malachy Hospitality

Pax Christi Pennsylvania meets online every 3rd Monday at 4:30 pm

-next meetings

April 20 and May 18

Please email the following if you wish to join us:

info@paxchristi-pa.org,

Pax Christi Pennsylvania

www.paxchristi-pa.org

pghpaxchristi@gmail.com,

Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi

paxchristihbg@gmail.com,

Pax Christi Harrisburg

paxchristiphila@yahoo.com,

Pax Christi Philadelphia / CPF: www.cpfphila.com

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

Also

West Chester PA Contact: Jeffrey Singleton jeffrey.singleton@comcast.net and for:

Blessed Are the Peacemakers Reading Group

Meets at Saint Joseph's Parish in Downingtown, PA; Contact for local meeting times:

<https://stjosephrc.org/blessed-are-the-peacemakers-reading-group>

Pax Christi USA:

info@paxchristiusa.org and sniamke@paxchristiusa.org



The Good Samaritan by Robert McGovern



Pax Christi PA

“an unarmed and disarming peace”

info@paxchristi-pa.org

paxchristi-pa.org



February 21st 2026

Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you well and surrounded by God's peace. It's been some time since we've seen/heard from you at our gatherings, and we wanted to reach out with a simple message from the heart: **you are missed.**

The Pax Christi movement is at its best when each person brings their unique gifts, stories, and compassion to the table. Your presence, whether quiet or bold, steady or occasional, has been part of the spirit that makes our community what it is. We've continued our work for justice and mercy, but we've also felt the absence of familiar faces who helped shape this peacemaking mission from the beginning.

As we look ahead, we would be grateful to have you with us again—whether that means joining a meeting, lending a hand at an event, or simply reconnecting over coffee. Come as you are, when you can: there will always be a place for you here. Mostly, though, we just wanted to let you know that you matter to us, and we'd love to see/hear from you again whenever the time is right.

If you'd like to catch up or learn what we've been working on lately, we would be happy to share. Last summer members of Pax Christi USA in Pennsylvania formed a statewide chapter, Pax Christi Pennsylvania. We have our new website (paxchristi-pa.org), statewide contact email (info@paxchristi-pa.org), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cpfnewsletter>), and other social media accounts on [Twitter/X](#), [Threads](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#).

There are active chapters in the following locations:

- Pax Christi **Pittsburgh Area** (pghpaxchristi@gmail.com)
- Pax Christi **Harrisburg** (paxchristihbg@gmail.com)
- Pax Christi **Philadelphia** / Catholic Peace Fellowship **Philadelphia** (paxchristiphila@yahoo.com, cpfphila@gmail.com, catholicpeacefellowship.phila@gmail.com, cpfnewsletter@gmail.com)
- Pax Christi **Chester County** "[Blessed Are the Peacemakers Reading Group](#)"

If you're looking to become involved again, and live near **Allentown, Altoona-Johnstown, Bethlehem, Erie, Reading, State College, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, York, or another location**, we would love to help you form a Pax Christi PA chapter to advocate with us for peace and justice

If you moved away from Pennsylvania, please feel welcome to connect with us!

Please note CPFphila with its newsletter has subscribers and contributors across the river in South Jersey and from New York to California and even Nicaragua. CPFphila was started in 1968 to be the Catholic conscience against the Vietnam War and then later the nuclear arms race (<https://cpfphila.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/catholicpeacefellowship.phila>)

If life is busy, heavy, or simply moving in different directions, please know there is no judgment here. We understand that seasons change: what hasn't changed is our hope you still feel connected to this community rooted in gospel nonviolence to love our neighbor, stand with the marginalized, and build a more just world.

In Christ's Peace,
Members of Pax Christi Pennsylvania

WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday, April 3 at 5pm

Starting outside the ICE Field Office and ending outside the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

Questions? Email justice@ssjphila.org

Faithful Philadelphia

A COALITION OF CATHOLICS COMMITTED TO
"UNLEASHING A TORRENT OF MORAL ENERGY" (POPE LEO XIV)
FROM LENT THROUGH CORPUS CHRISTI

RSVP:



Faithful Philly Supporters:



Catholic peace FELLOWSHIP

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

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, appeal letters and a donation link and our Facebook page at <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