



## CPF Bulletin Mid-Spring 2026

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<https://catholicphilly.com/2026/05/news/local-news/local-catholic-leaders-discuss-urgency-of-better-care-for-earth/>

Lobby Day in Harrisburg for Environmental Justice sponsored by Clean Water Action and an EcoPhilly contingent will also be going: <https://act.cleanwater.org/page/189576/subscribe/1?locale=en-US>

### **Pax Christi Pennsylvania Hybrid Meeting near Harrisburg June 27**– page 8

St. Malachy Antiracism Committee **Pentecost Hospitality** – page 9 and **New Encounters**  
Catholics Confronting Racism, **We Are One Body**: June 2026 Interparish Gathering - page 4

## Shell-shocked!

by Scott Fina - page 4

*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/shell-shocked-scott-fina/article\\_d91b3d47-16b7-49f4-ae69-4d86e0095f35.html](https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/commentary/shell-shocked-scott-fina/article_d91b3d47-16b7-49f4-ae69-4d86e0095f35.html)

## Sr. Margaret McKenna, M.M.S.

**May 1930 - April 2026**

<https://www.urbanfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Margaret-McKenna-MMS?obId=48205532>

*by F. Zampetti of CPF, Pax Christi PA, New Encounters and Eco Philly*

CPFphila lost another beloved. Sister Margaret McKenna, born May 26, 1930, made transition to her Heavenly reward on April 22, 2026. In the years I knew her, Sr. Margaret's main focus was New Jerusalem Now, a movement for non-violence and recovery:

<https://www.newjerusalemrecovery.com/>, but I believe she would have considered herself a long standing member of CPF. In the past she often joined our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday meetings and invited us to the New Jerusalem Now (NJN), workshops. I had the enlightening experience of attending an NJN day retreat sometime about 10 to 15 years ago. In recent years we saw Sr. Margaret seldom at CPF meetings and then even at Sunday Mass at St. Malachy; especially since Covid.

The last time I saw Sr. Margaret was last May 2025 at the ordination of the hermit Richard Withers. As my wife and I came over to greet the new Fr. Richard, we saw her hugging him. As we got close, we hugged Sr. Margaret and I jokingly waved Richard away. In his smile there was the understanding of the greater spiritual treasure she was relative to just a humble hermit and now a new but 70-year-old priest. The following is paraphrased from her obituary including some direct quotes; please follow the obituary link above for more detail:

**2026-05-23 Supplement last four pages**



Sister Margaret McKenna in the middle

Sister Margaret after her graduation from Holy Trinity High School in Hackensack, NJ, entered the Medical Mission Sisters in 1948. She earned a BA in English from Chestnut Hill College in 1955, and then over four summers, earned her Master's in Liturgy from Notre Dame University. Her published thesis was 'Women of the Church, the History, Role and Spirit of the Ecclesial Orders of Women in the Early Church'. An excerpt from her obituary reads: "Her research and writing expanded her thinking on feminism and the role of women in the church; her book is frequently cited even today as a seminal work in the field."

After a decade of teaching, in 1967 Sister Margaret left for Israel/Palestine to study Scripture at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem before returning to Philadelphia in 1970. She taught Theology at LaSalle University while taking doctoral classes in Christian Origins and Religious Thought at the University of Pennsylvania. Her interest in Liberation Theology prompted her move to a struggling neighborhood in Germantown where she lived in community with lay people. "She became more deeply involved in peace and justice causes, including promoting equality of women in the Church."

"Seeking a 'modern' desert spirituality, Sister Margaret and two friends moved into an abandoned house in North Philly in 1989 with the dream of establishing a cluster of hermitages for spiritual and economic sharing and supporting each other in nonviolent direct action." After working with Rev. Henry T. Wells, founder of One Day at a Time Recovery House (ODAAT), "she founded New Jerusalem Now (NJN), a program for those recovering from addiction."

When her health finally required her to live at St. Joseph's Villa. "She had a consoling presence of healing she generously shared. She once said, 'Strength is not in firmness, courage, and resistance but in our vulnerability and aliveness.'"

Services were on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the Medical Mission Sisters' Chapel, 8400 Pine Road, Philadelphia. Funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Richard Withers with interment in the Medical Mission Sisters Cemetery.

## **Shell-shocked!** by Scott Fina

Once again, many Americans find President Trump to be in great danger. Our Commander in Chief is under attack ... by sea shells. Yes, those deceptively beautiful things lots of us pick up from an ocean beach, threatening the life of our president.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Justice, under the leadership of Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche—who previously served as Trump's [personal defense attorney](#) in three criminal cases – is on the job.

On April 28, 2026, a federal grand jury in North Carolina [indicted](#) former FBI Director James Comey, who "knowingly and willfully made a threat to take the life of, and to inflict bodily harm upon the President of the United States," a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 871.

Knowing the weightiness of this matter, Blanche, accompanied by current FBI Director Kash Patel, held a press conference concerning Comey. The conference drew [widescale attention](#) across our nation and around the world. This is no surprise, considering the outrageous behavior by Comey and the sea shells he conspired with...

Walking along a beach on vacation, Comey took a picture of seashells placed in the sand to form the number "86", next to other seashells that formed the number "47". (That's "86 47" altogether.) Comey posted a picture of the shells on [Instagram](#) approximately a year ago in May of 2025.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the number "[86](#)" can be taken as a slang, "transitive verb", meaning to eject, ban, remove, get rid of, or discontinue, something or someone. Readers might recognize that President Trump is currently serving as the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (in his second term).

Ergo, the seashells present a message, something like "remove the current president".

That's a political message rather than a violent one, at least that's what Comey [claims](#) he meant by his post. And indeed, President Trump should be attuned to attempted, nonviolent action to remove or eject him from office, being the only U.S. president to be impeached twice.

But Trump didn't take it that way, nor did many of his supporters, who quickly complained that Comey was threatening the president and motivating others to harm or kill him. Trump claimed that Comey was using "86" as a "[mob](#)" term to murder him.

In [response](#), Comey, who alleged he was not aware that some people believe "86" is a violent term, took down the Instagram image less than a day after he posted it.

Many people may be alarmed to learn how dangerous a picture of seashells can be. Perhaps our society needs to take a closer look.

There is a popular [preschool song](#) titled, “10 Little Seashells Preschool Circle Time Song”. Students sit in a circle, and look at a chart of seashell images as they sing it. The song goes: “1 little, 2 little, 3 little seashells; 4 little, 5 little, 6 little seashells, 7 little, 8 little, 9 little seashells, 10 little seashells sitting on a shore!”

Then there is the “[Five Little Seashells](#)” song, which is typically sung with drumming. The lyrics go along these lines: “Five little seashells, lying on the shore. Swish went the waves, and then there were four. Four little seashells, pretty as can be. Swish went the waves and then there were three”, and so on.

How quickly can children learn to count to 47 and 86? And under such influence, will they sneak out to beaches and arrange seashells to form pictures that will violently threaten President Trump?

On the other hand, one questions whether Blanche himself has mostly put the president in harm’s way, by making a big deal about the seashell incident (a year after it occurred), which had been forgotten by most Americans.

In my research I stumbled upon a different side of presidential endangerments and innocent people -- including children -- when I Googled “Trump” and “threats”.

Amnesty International recently released a [report](#) responding to President Trump’s public statement on April 6, 2026, that he made out of frustration, in trying to get Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz. The president’s statement, in part, warned that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again” referring to the people living in Iran.

Amnesty International, again referring to Iran, found that:

“The US President’s threat of extermination and irreparable destruction brazenly shreds core rules of international humanitarian law, with potentially catastrophic consequences for over 90 million people. It may constitute a threat to commit genocide, a crime defined by the Genocide Convention and by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as committing one or more defined acts with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such.”

In 1948, the United Nations held the “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” that went into force in January of 1951. Under Article III of the Convention, “direct and public incitement to commit genocide” is punishable under [international law](#).

The indictment of James Comey by the U.S. Department of Justice is ridiculous. Blanche has been carried away with all the shell-shocking stuff. Instead, he should think about how President Trump “[knowingly and willfully](#) made a threat to take the life of, and to inflict bodily harm upon” tens of millions of innocent people.

## **New Encounters:** Catholics Confronting Racism <https://www.newencounters.org/>

Members of 12 parishes across the archdiocese have been meeting quarterly since March 2024 to respond to Archbishop Pérez’ 2023 pastoral letter on racism, “**We Are One Body.**” Please join us at our next Interparish Gathering; **Saturday, June 13, 2026.** Doors open 10:30am with program 11am to 2pm at Cranaleith Spiritual Center, 13475 Proctor Road Philadelphia, PA, 19116; Spanish interpretation provided. Please RSVP so they can plan lunch-count: Dr. Mary Laver, coordinator of New Encounters, at [newencounterscatholics@gmail.com](mailto:newencounterscatholics@gmail.com)

# EcoPhilly Annual Summit on May 9 at Villanova

*by F. Zampetti of CPF, Pax Christi PA, New Encounters and Eco Philly*

I made my first Eco Philly summit in 2024 joining CPFphila friends Kit, Barbara and Sr. Maryanne. I had another commitment last year, so my wife Ava made the extra effort to go in my stead via PATCO and SEPTA. Fortunately, this year both Ava and I along with our CPF/ Pax Christi PA and New Encounters friends, enjoyed the gracious hospitality offered by Villanova University; see the following images and more at <https://www.facebook.com/catholicpeacefellowship.phila/>.

“Hope”, as Pope Francis often said, is “not something you feel”, it “is something you do”. At EcoPhilly one not only learns additional critical details to address the environmental crisis but also the actions of fellow faithful Catholics. For the last 3 years, this has given us hope. Community is a place of strength to go on and do this must-do work; this gathering of community was again what I needed at this time. Ava told me she “...was amazed at how many partnerships the Catholic Laudato Si’ movement had to help parishes and other Catholic organizations and by the work being done by the Diocese of Lexington, KY.” In addition to Eco Philly, Ava “... was surprised by all the supportive organizations, for example Catholic Energies (<https://www.catholicenergies.org/>) and Catholic Climate Covenant (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>).”

Barbara shared the link below on the 2026 conference as well as the link for Clean Water Action Lobby Day for Environmental Justice: <https://act.cleanwater.org/page/189576/subscribe/1?locale=en-US>

The following are excerpts drawn from the Catholic Philly article:

‘Local Catholic Leaders Discuss Urgency of Better Care for Earth’

<https://catholicphilly.com/2026/05/news/local-news/local-catholic-leaders-discuss-urgency-of-better-care-for-earth/>

Pope Leo XIV, a Villanova University alumnus, offered a challenge to the Catholic Church on the 10th anniversary of the encyclical of Pope Francis entitled “Laudato Si’,” which calls the Church to greater, more active care for God’s creation in a time of what the late Holy Father described as an environmental crisis.

EcoPhilly Co-Founder and Board Chair Nicholas Collura cited Pope Leo’s challenge to the approximately 120 people who attended “From Hope to Action”, the annual conference for the Philadelphia-based organization hosted May 9 by Villanova University. “God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that He created, for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters,” Collura said, quoting the Holy Father. “What will be our answer?”

The attendees came from across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, but also from Harrisburg and even Chicago. They took part in a series of talks, panel discussions, and question-and-answer sessions while encountering fellow faith-centered ecological organizations with whom they could partner and take action.”

Keynote Speaker Joshua van Cleef, director of the Office of Peace and Justice for the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, addressed the ecological urgency of our times and also outlined the goals and actions taken by the Diocese of Lexington. – continued on page 7

# Images from Eco Philly 2026 'From Hope to Action':



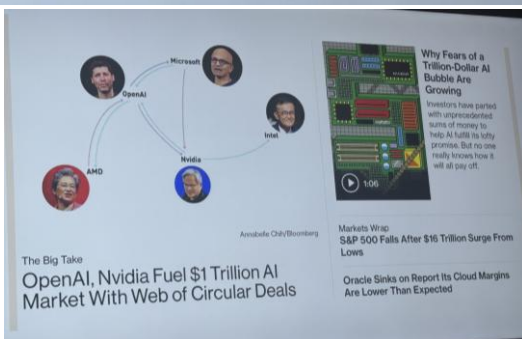
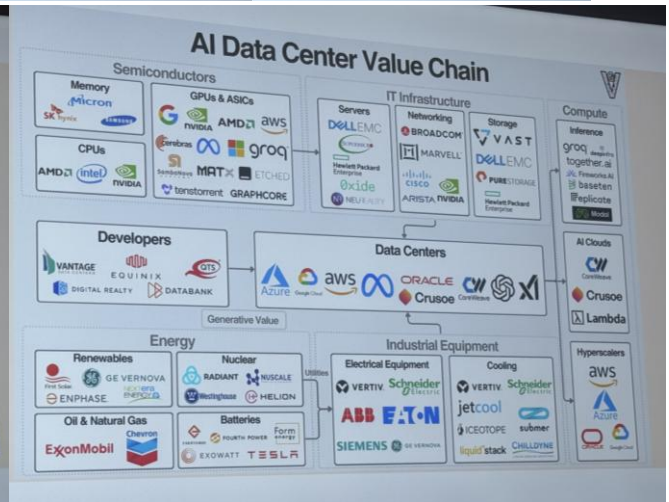
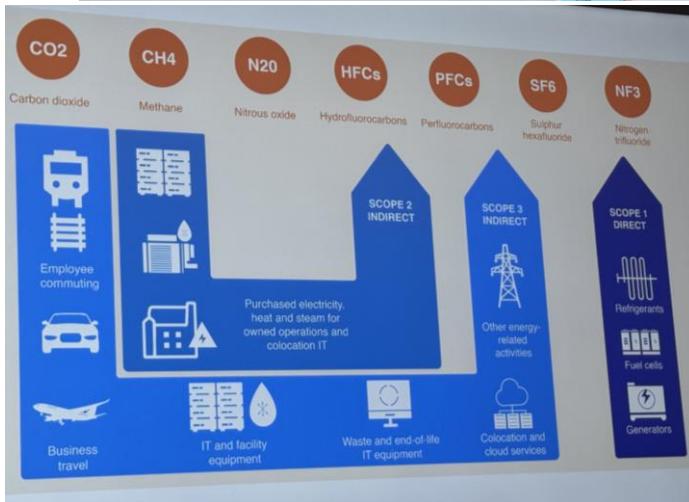
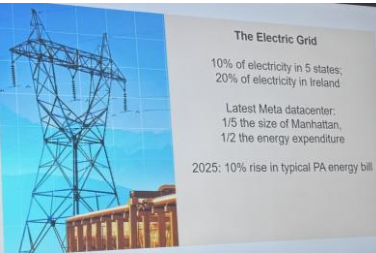
# EcoPhilly at Villanova

Continued from page 5

Ava went to the breakout session discussing the environmental implications from AI and its data centers. I listen to the panel on how two Philadelphia parishes responded to the challenge of the Laudato Si' movement. Our CPF friend Kit from Our Lady of Consolation served on the panel of five which included members and the pastors from Our Lady of Consolation and St. Vincent de Paul. The pastors and lay folks shared their goals, accomplishments and offered guidance.



- ### EcoPhilly Mini Grant Awardees
1. Chestnut Hill College Campus Ministry Project: Garden of Forgiveness
  2. Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls Project: Pearls and Prospective: Hydroponics Lab and Outdoor Greenhouse
  3. Norwood-Fontbonne Academy Project: From Soil to Soul: A Pollinator Garden for Our Common Home
  4. Our Mother of Consolation Parish School Project: OMC E-Waste reduction Initiative
  5. Pope John Paul II High School Project: Improving Waste Sorting and Recycling Education Through Three-Stream Stations
  6. Regina Academy at St John the Baptist Project: Native Plant Garden Establishment
  7. St. Elizabeth Parish School Project: St. Elizabeth Parish School Care for Creation Team
  8. St. Ignatius of Loyola Roman Catholic Church Project: Restoring the Master's Plan in West Philadelphia
  9. St. Matthew School Project: Cultivate, Conserve, Celebrate God's Bounty
  10. St. Raphaela Center Project: Laudato Si' at St. Raphaela Center
  11. St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Project: Religious Education Program
  12. St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Philadelphia) Project: St. Vincent's Community Garden
  13. St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Richboro) Project: Pollinator Garden Installation
- EcoPhilly Annual Summit, 1 May 9, 2024



# **Pax Christi Pennsylvania meets online every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 4:30 pm**

-next meetings

**May 18, June 15 and**

**Please hold the date and see the website for updates for  
Statewide in-person / virtual meeting in planning to be near  
Harrisburg, PA on June 27, 2026**

Please email the following if you wish to join us:

[info@paxchristi-pa.org](mailto:info@paxchristi-pa.org),

**Pax Christi Pennsylvania**

[www.paxchristi-pa.org](http://www.paxchristi-pa.org)

[pghpaxchristi@gmail.com](mailto:pghpaxchristi@gmail.com),

**Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi**

[paxchristihbg@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristihbg@gmail.com),

**Pax Christi Harrisburg**

[paxchristiphila@yahoo.com](mailto:paxchristiphila@yahoo.com),

**Pax Christi Philadelphia / CPF:** [www.cpfphila.com](http://www.cpfphila.com)

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

Also

**West Chester PA Contact:** Jeffrey Singleton [jeffrey.singleton@comcast.net](mailto: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>

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**NEXT CPF MEETINGS: June 14 and July 12**

Agendas will be **Pax Christ PA on June 27** and St. Malachy Annual **Peace Mass on August 9**

**We hope to have 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Peace Mass on August 9;** No meeting that day.

On select Sundays CPF Phila meets after the 10 am Mass at St. Malachy 1429 North 11th St., Philadelphia, PA 19122 and when possible also online starting about 11:45 pm; Please email [CPFphila@gmail.com](mailto:CPFphila@gmail.com) for Meeting Link.



The Good Samaritan  
by Robert McGovern

## May 24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday St. Malachy Hospitality

St. Malachy Antiracism Committee **ARC** will co-sponsor with other parish groups and **CPF** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pentecost Hospitality after the Sunday Mass and invite parishioners and guests to bring examples of foods and wear clothes from the diverse cultures of the parish community.



All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages...



### PENTECOST CELEBRATION



St. Malachy Pentecost celebration Sunday, May 24, 2026, and after Mass in the St. Malachy Church Hall. All are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual celebration of the diverse cultures of our parish and if possible, contribute through the following suggestions:

- We are asking participants to contribute food ideally associated with their heritage or culture for both hospitality and non-perishable food for the food bank which can be left at the back of the church starting this Sunday.
- Participate in the Liturgy by coordinating with the Choir for singing in their language and or with Children's Liturgy for their children to be a part of the entry procession of nations.
- Wearing clothing representing their heritage or culture; this can include the gear of their favorite sport's team:)

If you would be interested in contributing food for hospitality; Please email [CPFphila@gmail.com](mailto:CPFphila@gmail.com) so we can coordinate.

# 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)

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

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

[paxchristiphila@yahoo.com](mailto:paxchristiphila@yahoo.com)

[www.paxchristi-pa.org](http://www.paxchristi-pa.org) / [info@paxchristi-pa.org](mailto:info@paxchristi-pa.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](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com) for an update to the donation process. Please visit our website [cpfphila.com](http://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](mailto:cpfnewsletter@gmail.com) and [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.cpfphila.com) or request an emailed PDF at [cpfphila@gmail.com](mailto: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 will meet on select Sundays 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](mailto:cpfphila@gmail.com). Mailed check donations are now through the host parish and tax deductible; see website for more information, for copyright notice, how to donate and for online donation to support the website and media outreach. Also one can donate directly to maintaining the CPF website via the approved link below.

[Catholic Peace Fellowship - Philadelphia – Giving Hub](#)

(but not tax deductible)

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



**Pax Christi Pennsylvania 1st Statewide in-person / virtual meeting near Harrisburg, June 27**



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Judith Kelly**

**Judith Kelly** of Arlington, VA has worked with the Peace Corps and many solidarity groups, including Pace e Bene, Witness for Peace, and Witness Against Torture. She's been arrested 28 times for civil resistance; in 2003 she went to federal prison for an SOA Watch action at Ft. Benning, home of the SOA/WHINSEC. In 2014, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore named her Peacemaker of the Year. More recently, Judith researched the life of martyred Solidarity chaplain Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko for her book, *Just Call Me Jerzy: Popiełuszko in the United States and Canada*. (See [justcallmejerzy.com](http://justcallmejerzy.com))



[paxchristi-pa.org](http://paxchristi-pa.org)

**REGISTER HERE** 

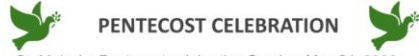


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- Wearing clothing representing their heritage or culture; this can include the gear of their favorite sport's team.)

If you would be interested in contributing food for hospitality; Please email [CPFphila@gmail.com](mailto:CPFphila@gmail.com) so we can coordinate.

## We Are One Body - New Encounters Saturday, June 13, 2026

**New Encounters:** Catholics Confronting Racism <https://www.newencounters.org/>

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[pghpaxchristi@gmail.com](mailto:pghpaxchristi@gmail.com),

Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi

[paxchristihbg@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristihbg@gmail.com),

Pax Christi Harrisburg

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Also

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by Robert McGovern



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST EVER

# Pax Christi PA Statewide Summit



paxchristi-pa.org

**Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

101 North 23rd Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011

**9:30AM-4:00PM**

Keynote Speaker: **Judith Kelly**

Join us for a day of prayer, action, and study as we organize and animate the Catholic peace movement across Pennsylvania!



PRAYER



ACTION



STUDY

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