

Testimony



A Pamphlet from Pax Christi Texas

Anticipating April 25, 2021

Communications with the editor should be sent to j6anthonyblasi@yahoo.com. Pax Christi International was founded in 1945 with the encouragement of Bishop Pierre Marie Théas of Montauban, France, by Marthe Dortel Claudot, as a Christian lay organization dedicated to preventing a repetition of the savagery of the twentieth century's world wars.

Editorial

After the calendar, the Sunday Liturgical Reading reflections are based on readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Tom Keene's poem is *Sin Is*. For more of Tom's poems, see <http://www.tomkeeneandthemuse.com/index.php>. Following the poem is a pastoral statement, by Pax Christi Philippines with others, on violence perpetrated by the government of the Philippines. Pax Christi International has endorsed it.

Calendar

Tuesday April 20, 6:00pm, film *The Condor & the Eagle. Protectors of Sacred Places and Our Common Home*, followed by panel discussion. Register at: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/190/ry2lyu25?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=5205983e-34ae-493e-a1be-85634932f4ee&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=0f12897f-e64e-4120-9a2c-103d81c64c1c>

Tuesday April 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm, online presentation "Racial Justice and the Call of Discipleship," Fr. Brian Massingale (Fordham University), sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Lexington. Information and registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rev-bryan-massingale-racial-justice-and-the-call-of-discipleship-tickets-148053037621?fbclid=IwAR3Mc8nW6OtW1QizcHeqIPyDjBjBTN9zABWlu0KVhPOnx6T7Dly4hKoBjBE>

Thursday April 22, 7:00pm, premiere of the documentary *Greta Thunberg: A Year to Change the World*, on KLRN. Watch on air or at klnr.org/live.

Friday April 23, 2:00pm-3:30pm (3:00pm-4:30pm ET), webinar "The Historic Vietnam Veterans Protest in Washington: Lessons for Today," Jan Barry (Vietnam Veterans Against the War), Adrienne Kinne (Veterans for Peace), Lauren Mottle (University of Leeds), Garrett Reppenhagen (Veterans for Peace), Carlotta Scott (former aide to the late Rep. Ron Dellums), Chuck Searcey (Operation RENEW), Lamont B. Steptoe (poet), and Steve Talbot (filmmaker), moderated by Dvid Cortright (University of Notre Dame). Register at:
https://notredame.zoom.us/webinar/register/4816172188982/WN_j7WKIPDbSG2Yqd6TvwEtRw?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4.1.2021+Event+Dewey+Canyon+Vietnam+Invite+1&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fnotredame.zoom.us%2fwebinar%2fregister%2f4816172188982%2fWN_j7WKIPDbSG2Yqd6TvwEtRw&utm_id=476137&sfmc_id=16334564

Saturday April 24, 12:00pm-4:00pm (1:00pm-5:00pm ET), online "Creating a Culture of Life in a Divided Country," Consistent Life Network. Register at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFiWjfUNE_mQ8A9KOcYejVoURnte27Fh_-hazCrIYT_YBKZQ/viewform

Sunday April 25, 9:30am, online presentation "Air Quality Issues—How Energy Use Impacts the Atmosphere, and How Air Pollution, In Turn, Impacts Human Health," Daniel Cohan (Rice University). Sponsored by St. Philips Presbyterian Church, Houston. Register at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86564638381?pwd=MTBtSF16eVhoTUF3SXJ2VlBWd0N2QT09#success>

Monday April 26, 6:30pm-7:30pm online "Becoming an Ally against racism," Lisa Stone (anti-Defamation League). Register by April 19 at: <https://upcsa.org/sol-center-registration/>

Saturday May 1, 10:00am-2:30pm (11:00am-3:30pm ET), virtual nonviolence training, a collaboration of Pax Christi USA and Meta Peace Team. \$35.00 suggested donation. Register at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsduiqqjorEtBmxLEsTNND5cqEgcoD9P5v>

Monday May 3, 11:30am-12:30pm (12:30pm-1:30pm ET) webinar "The Frontlines of Peace: An Insider's Guide to Changing the World," discussion of the book by that title by Séverine Autesserre (Columbia University); discussants are Autesserre, Laurie Nathan (University of Notre Dame), and Rachel Sweet (University of Notre Dame). Register at:

https://notredame.zoom.us/webinar/register/8016179754403/WN_8cKwP2eVRvmNdO1snRG_Gg?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5.3.2021+Event+Severine+Autesserre+Invite+1&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fnotredame.zoom.us%2fwebinar%2fregister%2f8016179754403%2fWN_8cKwP2eVRvmNdO1snRG_Gg&utm_id=482224&sfmc_id=16334564

Friday July 30-Saturday July 31, 49th anniversary Pax Christi USA conference, online. Keynote Speaker: Olga Segura, author of *Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church*. Conference mass presider: Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. SAVE THE DATE

Notices

Pax Christi Texas State Conference, Part 1, video of the April 3 session. Link: <https://youtu.be/d-6QxV9FOYQ>

Video on the Real Problem of Plastic. *Where Your Recycled Plastic Ends Up* (4 min., 15 seconds). Access at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWrf1RYHcQI>

Book on Daniel Berrigan by a Friend. *Celebrant's Flame: Daniel Berrigan in Memory and Reflection*, by Bill Wylie-Kellermann. Information and 40% discount coupon at: <https://billwylie-kellermann.com/celebrants-flame/>

Second Reading (1 John 3:1-2)

The New Testament letters by the Presbyter John, the principal one of which is numbered as "1," are simple and direct in their style, as if intended for children. In fact, the author addresses the recipients with the term *children*. Nevertheless, profound insight can be found in them. I paraphrase the text of today's reading differently from modern bibles. As I read the passage, it begins a

consideration of the next life at 1 Jn 2:28-29 and completes the thought with today's passage, which is marked 1 Jn 3:1-2.

“And now, children, remain with him, so that if he appears we will have confidence and not be embarrassed near him at his coming” (v. 2:28). This implies that to be Christian entails some embarrassment by the standards of this world, and that this contrasts how matters will be in a bigger picture. “Therefore the world does not know us because it did not know him” (v. 3.1b).

The main point is to be found in the rationale Presbyter John provides: “We know that if whenever he appears we will be like him, that we will see him as he is” (v. 3:2b). Seeing the Christ as he is, is tantamount to being like him. An analogy is implied: having an insight dawn upon one, and dwelling in it.

Third Reading (John 10:11-18)

The gospel reading consists of the Parable of the Good Shepherd. It is situated within the miracle narrative of the man born blind. In that narrative, “some from the Pharisees” refuse to see the obvious implications of the cure of the man's blindness. That leads to a section comparing good and bad religious leadership. The Parable of the Good Shepherd compares the genuine shepherd's care for the sheep and the flight of the hireling when a wolf approaches.

The parable relies on an underlying analysis of motives. The shepherd is interested in the sheep while the hireling is principally interested in pay. Shepherding, even by genuine shepherds, may in the long run aim at compensation through the sale of wool, but that long run interest entails a concern with the well-being of the sheep while the interest of the hireling is short term and does not really involve a concern for the well-being of the sheep.

It is difficult to escape mixed motives in our modern money economy. One way of doing so is to cultivate quality workmanship. Another is interest in the personal well-being of the people we affect with our work, an aesthetic interest in an art we pursue, or an intellectual interest in some area of knowledge. Very often these intertwine with each other as much as they intertwine with an interest in compensation.

The customary prayer recited prior to proclaiming the gospel is, “May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.” The last part of that prayer is the most difficult.

Poem

Sin Is

Sin is reservation-concentration camps for any who came here first,
slavery's arrogance in holding others as property,
Auschwitz separating a "superior race" from the rest of us.

Sin is Hutus killing Tutsis in Rwanda,
seeing others as us-verses-them,
separations that blaspheme our holy human family.

Sin is our indifference to this.

Tom Keene and Muse
January 18, 2021



A Cornerstone for Peace: Solidarity with the people of the Philippines

The following is a pastoral statement from the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform and signatories include Pax Christi International Board Member Bishop Emeritus Antonio Ledesma, SJ. Bishop Ledesma is also bishop-president of Pax Christi Philippines. Pax Christi International stands in solidarity with the people of the Philippines and our members and partners who are affected by violence there. We support their promotion of nonviolence and dedication to peacebuilding in the Philippines. –Pax Christi International

Pastoral Statement

Respect for Human Rights and God's Gift of Human Dignity: A Cornerstone for Peace

The Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP) is very concerned about the growing state of violence in the country that is fast spreading like the deadly COVID-19 virus. As church people, we are seriously alarmed that human rights, which protects God's gift of human dignity and an important cornerstone of peace, is sadly being ignored and desecrated.

On March 7, a day before International Women's Day, coordinated "tokhang" style raids by the police and the military in Calabarzon, resulted in the death of nine activists and arrests of six others. Most were killed in their homes but the police claimed that there was an "armed encounter" and the alleged members of "communist terrorist groups" fought back (nanlaban). Prior to this, on March 4, two union leaders were arrested in Santa Rosa and in San Pablo City, Laguna, respectively. We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved families of those killed and our prayers for those arrested and their families and colleagues who are working for their releases.

Human rights groups have dubbed the chilling crackdown as "Bloody Sunday," redolent of the government's war on drugs. They also noted how the attacks came two days after President Rodrigo Duterte ordered police and military to "kill" and "finish off" members of the New People's Army (NPA) — and "don't mind human rights". Rights violations and attacks on members of civil society organizations have increased these past few days and weeks. On March 3, 2021, Atty. Angelo Karlo Guillen, Vice President for Visayas of the National Union of People's Lawyers, was almost killed when two men in Iloilo City stabbed him. Atty. Guillen is the lawyer for the survivors of the Tumandok and Sagay massacres and his laptop containing files of said cases were taken by his attackers. Other disheartening rights violations include the killing of Julie Catamin, the barangay captain who came forward to counter the claims of state forces that the

“Tumandok 9” massacre victims were rebels, and the arrests of Lumad students and their teachers in the University of San Carlos, among others.

We call on the government, especially those in the security sector, to fully respect human rights and strive to protect God’s gift of human dignity. We also call on the Filipino people to pray and work for the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the NDFP. Like the vaccine, which is a crucial solution to the COVID-19 pandemic, principled negotiations that address the roots of the armed conflict in our country are likewise the best option for a people-centered peace settlement. It is written: “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace —as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.” (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Issued and signed on this 10th day, March 2021.

BISHOP EMERITUS ANTONIO J. LEDESMA, SJ., DD
Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro Co-chairperson, PEPP

THE RT. REVD. REX B. REYES, JR. Co-chairperson, PEPP
Ecumenical Bishops Forum

BISHOP RUEEL NORMAN O. MARIGZA
General Secretary National Council of Churches in the Philippines

SR. MARY JOHN D. MANANZAN, OSBOWGC – AMRSP

BISHOP EMERITUS DEOGRACIAS S. INIGUEZ, JR., D.D.
Head of the Secretariat, PEPP*

The PEPP is a platform for 5 church institutions/groups, namely, the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) with organizations of Religious, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and the Ecumenical Bishops’ Forum (EBF), in working for a just and enduring peace by supporting the peace process between the GRP-NDFP.

Links

Pax Christi International
<http://www.paxchristi.net/>

Pax Christi U.S.A.
<http://www.paxchristiusa.org>

Pax Christi Texas
<http://www.paxchristitexas.org>

Pax Christi Dallas
<http://www.Paxchristidallastx.org>

Pax Christi San Antonio
<http://www.paxchristisa.org>

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative
www.msjc.net

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, International JPIC Committee
<http://saccvi.blogspot.com/>

San Antonio Peace Center
<http://www.sanantoniopace.center>

Texas Catholic Campaign to End the Death Penalty
www.txccedp.org

Dialogue Institute of San Antonio
www.thedialoginstitute.org/san-antonio/

Climate Change

www.creation-care.com

Catholic Books Review

<http://catholicbooksreview.org>