

Testimony

A Pamphlet from Pax Christi San Antonio

Anticipating June 17, 2018

Pax Christi San Antonio does not solicit donations; however, anyone wishing to join should make a donation to Pax Christi U.S.A. and notify Maria Tobin, matob@aol.com, to receive email messages sent to members. 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.

Please do not respond to this newsletter's address; but send comments on the newsletter to J6anthonyblasi@yahoo.com.

Editorial

After the calendar, the *Third Reading* commentary is based on the gospel reading for the eleventh Sunday in ordinary time. Tom Keene poem is *Thy Kingdom Come*. See <http://www.tomkeeneandthemuse.com/index.php> for more of Tom's poems. After the poem is a press release from Pax Christi International, announcing the awarding of the Pax Christi International Peace Award to the No Boundaries Coalition, of Baltimore. While there is much in the world to deplore and condemn, the award recognized what is to be commended.

Pax Christi San Antonio member Al Eisch brought to our attention a talk by Bishop William Barron at the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. It is a particularly apt presentation on religion opening minds, or science and religion. The link is <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/lecture/religion-and-the-opening-up-of-the-mind-google-talk/5770/>

Calendar

In Austin

Thursday June 14, 10:00am-3:30pm, Juneteenth Celebration: Entertainment, vendor booths. Austin Community College: Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Rd.

Saturday June 23, 9:00am-5:00pm, Juneteenth Health Festival. 2018 theme: Reproductive Justice. The event is an annual celebration of Black Health and Wellness in the context of liberation. See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/juneteenth-health-fest-2018-tickets-45395760943?aff=efbeventix>. Tickets (free) by May 30. Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chacon St.

In San Antonio

Monday June 18, 4:30pm to **Wednesday June 20**, 8:30pm, Summer Institute: Downward Mobility. Presentations by Shane Claiborne, Robert Elsberg, David Haas,

and Sue Mosteller. Oblate School of Theology, 285 Oblate dr. \$85 registration; meal plan and lodging available. For information: <https://ost.edu/continuing-education/>, or (210) 341-1366 X 406.

Friday July 13-Sunday July 22. National Hispanic Institute Summer Conference. The Texas Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session will be held on the St. Mary's University campus. For information, Latinx young adults may contact the National Hispanic Institute: jcotto@nhimail.com, or 512-357-6137.

Third Reading (Mark 4:26-34)

“And he spoke the word to them with many such parables, as they were able to hear....” The nature of Jesus’ parables places responsibility for delivering the point upon the hearer. It is similar to an experienced jurist reading a decision and, because of a knowledge of the history of precedents and familiarity with their application, sees many ramifications that most other people would not see. An expert in electronics will likewise see much more in a circuit board than would others. A musicologist hears much more to appreciate in the performance of a symphony than does the untrained ear. Indeed, a mature person will have more difficulty being bored with everyday life than will a child. In that light, we can understand how a parable works.

“This is what the kingdom of God is like: Someone would throw seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and lengthen in a way one does not understand.” Here we have a parable about parables, pertaining not to an individual but to a “kingdom.” We do not know how the propensity to hear the word about the kingdom fruitfully develops, how the sensitivity to moral reality emerges in the public. Individuals and groups who had not responded before suddenly do so. We ourselves do not understand how our own discoveries, and also our own blindnesses, come about. But they are there in our very selves. “Like a grain of mustard, which is smaller than all the seeds on the earth when one sows it....”

Poem

Thy Kingdom Come

We are the world that has.

This is how we dream:

Along everlasting assembly lines
we put ourselves together
suited to designs of fashion
to fit intentions of entrepreneurs
who follow leads of markets
that care not to know what we do

so long as doing gets done.
We dream of machines that mold us to fit
to become interchangeable parts
till obsolescence or wear
send us to recycling bins.

We are the rest of the world.

This is how we dream:

Fitfully, amid babies' cries.
We harvest colonial garbage cans,
ponder melting into mountains with machetes and guns.
Poets, we celebrate our desperate hopes.
Painters, we color our future and wake to a cold gray now.

We are the tribe of dreamers.

This is how we live:

Becoming a people to make a people of all who dream.
We wear on our faces the blueprints, store lumber,
brick and mortar in the basements of our minds.
Seeds, dormant in winter's dirt, we wait for spring.
Yeast set aside, we wait for the wheat and the fire.

Tom Keene
October 21, 1986

**PRESS RELEASE: Pax Christi International announces No Boundaries
Coalition of USA as recipient of the 2018 Peace Award**
17 May 2018

Brussels - Pax Christi International is pleased to announce that the **No Boundaries Coalition**, based in Baltimore, Maryland USA, is the recipient of the 2018 Pax Christi International Peace Award. The award will be presented at a ceremony later this year, date and location to be determined.

"It is an honor that the work [of No Boundaries] ... is being recognised by the world as a continued beacon of hope in a city overwhelmed with adversity," said No Boundaries' chief executive officer Ray Kelly, who noted that both he personally and the goals of the coalition have been inspired by Catholic teachings and traditions.

The No Boundaries Coalition was formed as a non-profit organisation in 2010 after three years of block parties had connected several diverse West Baltimore neighborhoods and enhanced resident engagement. Its primary priorities are public safety and access to healthy food; it also hosts listening and accountability fora for public officials and organises voter registration drives. The coalition's store-front office is

available for community use – services range from employment assistance to treatment program support to yoga and Zumba classes.

In relation to public safety, No Boundaries has been a leader within the community, particularly after the death of Freddie Gray, a young African American man who died while in police custody in April 2015. After the violent unrest which erupted following Gray's death, No Boundaries provided listening spaces for residents and city officials, and created the West Baltimore Community Commission on Police Misconduct. Its mission was to document and present residents' stories of their interactions with the Baltimore Police Department; in 2016 they published "Over Policed Yet Underserved: The People's Findings Regarding Police Misconduct in West Baltimore," which was ultimately cited by the U.S. Department of Justice and reported to the United Nations.

"We admire the courageous work of the residents of West Baltimore who, confronted with ongoing systemic racism, economic exclusion and civic disconnection, jointly created the No Boundaries Coalition. We honour their steadfastness to transform their vulnerable community through nonviolent approaches, into viable and secure living spaces for all, across the boundaries of race, class and neighborhood," said Greet Vanaerschot, secretary general of Pax Christi International. "The efforts of the No Boundaries Coalition to promote the dignity of the people of West Baltimore serve as an excellent model of active nonviolence."

*Established in 1988, the **Pax Christi International Peace Award** is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honours contemporary individuals and organisations who make a stand for peace, justice and nonviolence in different parts of the world.*

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>

Interfaith Radio, (*Interfaith Voices*)
<http://www.interfaithradio.org/>

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