Dear Reader,

Our last issue of *Kerux* featured information about the early stages of the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty Conference held at the United Nations the last week of March. It included a letter from Catholic organizations and congregations appealing to the U.S. President to support the negotiations to ban nuclear weapons. It also included a Public Statement from interfaith communities encouraging the treaty. Beth Begley from Pax Christi International’s NGO at the UN and a member of Pax Christi Maryknoll reported on the Conference in March. Finally, I shared excerpts from Pope Francis’s endorsement of the Conference. If you did not read our Spring issue, you might want to go back and read it now.

This issue continues where the last one left off. From June 15th through July 7th, 124 nations of the world came together to refine and approve a treaty now known as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As you will read in an eyewitness account from Sisters Carol Gilbert, OP and Ardeth Platte, OP, 122 of the 124 nations approved the Treaty which opens up for ratification on September 20th. Unfortunately, none of those nations is a nuclear weapons state, but the pressure is now on them to join the world community in declaring nuclear weapons immoral, unethical, and illegal.

While the Conference to Ban the Bomb met, many side events occurred that engaged the general public beyond those with UN affiliation. Members of PCMNY were among the hundreds and thousands that participated in these activities.

Peace Action hosted an “Exchange Meeting of No Nukes! Women Activists of Japan and the U.S.” that welcomed nine members of the New Japan Women’s Association who spoke poignantly about their experiences with the nuclear reality. All were here for the Conference because of their direct connections to Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) and to Fukushima where the nuclear reactors melted and released dangerous radiation. They know the exorbitant price of nuclear proliferation and the critical need to stop it.

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom initiated the Women’s March to Ban the Bomb that took place not just in New York City, but around the globe. Other than the several hours of torrential rain in NYC, it was a great march that stretched several blocks long. The spirit may have actually been enhanced by the rain as we all walked drenched to the skin despite ponchos and umbrellas, committed to our message that nuclear weapons must go.

On a much drier day, American Friends Service Committee presented *No Nukes, No Wars, No Walls, No Warming—One Struggle, Many Fronts.* Topics included “Survivors Resist: Humanitarian Consequences,” “Nuclear Arms: Causes, Effects and Movements Against”, “Organizing for Nuclear Disarmament: Youth in the Lead”, and “Ban Treaty and Beyond.” Speakers came from Japan, the Marshall Islands, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Tewa indigenous people of New Mexico, the Sikh community, African-American and white USA. Regardless of ethnic, racial, religious heritage, or age, the overriding message was clear: We MUST stand up and speak out for a world that puts people and the environment first, that ends the nuclear insanity.

Yet another day War Resisters League NYC drew a crowd to the Isaiah Wall across from the UN where some held banners and others distributed leaflets inviting passersby to contact Congress and the White House to reverse direction and take the lead in a nuclear *disarmament* race, among other actions. Three

(continued on next page…)

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Dear Reader, from page 1...

One evening in the UN, in the rather expansive Trusteeship Chamber, courtesy of the Irish Mission and, among others, Pax Christi International (PCI), a near full house watched the inspiring film, The Nuns, The Priests and the Bombs, produced by Helen Young. The film tells the story of such beloved Plowshares activists as Sr. Megan Rice, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Fr. Bill Bichsel, and Fr. Steve Kelly. It is highly informative, but also surprisingly uplifting. Following the screening, Sr. Megan Rice joined PCI Co-president Marie Dennis and Helen Young for a brief Q & A.

PCI also held a panel discussion on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty Negotiations to solicit input.

On July 7th, Conference attendees rejoiced and celebrated their great accomplishment in approving the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We rejoice and celebrate with them. But we all know, as Sisters Carol and Ardeth write, “The Work Continues!” Please read their report below.

Rosemarie Pace, Director

Eliminate Nuclear Weapons Forever!
The Work Continues!
by Carol Gilbert, OP and Ardeth Platte, OP

Elayne Whyte-Gomez from Costa Rica, as President of the United Nations world-wide delegates, led them to a negotiated treaty regarding nuclear weapons. She opened each morning and afternoon session during the four and a half weeks with the work and goal of the assembly concluding, “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.” On July 7, 2017 the goal was achieved by a vote of 122 nations for the treaty, 1 nation (The Netherlands) opposed and 1 abstention (Singapore). This historical moment was more than 70 years in the making. News of it has flooded social media all over the world but had little mention in the mainstream media. Nikki Haley, United States ambassador to the United Nations, along with the nine nuclear weapon nations, NATO countries, and those claiming U.S. protection or owing allegiance to the U.S., publicly boycotted the gatherings.

Present with members of the General Assembly were hundreds of NGO members, as well as Hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan) and other persons from affected areas such as Fiji and Marshall Islands. Setsuko Thurlow, who was a victim of the Hiroshima bombing at age 13, gave testimony at the opening and closing of the Conference. She touched the hearts of all of us assembled! Also present in working sessions were experts in science and law, International Red Cross, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Interfaith groups, Pax Christi International, WILPF, ICAN—comprised of hundreds of peace/justice groups—and media throughout the world. The Japanese people sent a petition signed by more than two and a half million people. These groups of young and old persons sent daily invitations to the nations not present, pursued credentials to be obtained for voting privilege and strengthened the wording of the treaty. This work of many assured the support needed for passing the strongest “Ban the Bomb Treaty” possible.

The Treaty was released in three draft copies – March, June and then the third one which was completed for the vote. The document contains the Pre-amble, Prohibitions and Institutions. The preamble consists of 24 paragraphs highlighting humanitarian concerns and consequences, human rights laws, UN Charter Law, Protocols and International Laws applicable to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The comprehensive and succinct Prohibitions are listed in Article 1: “…never under any circumstance to develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices.” The Treaty goes on to clarify that there can be no transfer or reception by any State. The weapons cannot be used or threatened to be used (ridding the concept of deterrence.) Contained within this terminology is every kind of test, all financing by governments, banks, and corporations, and all military planning.

Other amazing parts of the treaty include that the Treaty will remain open for all nations to enter into the agreement. There will be victim assistance and environmental remediation. There is an acknowledgement of the dire effects of radioactivity on women and children and the hope for more women
to participate in future decisions. There are simple procedures for every nation to enter into the treaty which will conclude with a declaration of weapons they possess, a step-by-step process for their elimination and a verification of the accomplishment.

The General Assembly of the UN will meet during the week of September 20th at which time the nations will be able to sign the Treaty and begin the ratification process. When fifty nations have completed this acceptance of the Treaty, it is in force for total implementation after 90 days. It takes its place among the banning of Biological Weapons (1972), Chemical Weapons (1993), Landmines (1997), and Cluster Munitions (2008). This Treaty does away with the last series of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Let us commit to join together in prayer, education, lobby, withdrawal of money from banks and corporations, demonstrations and nonviolent opposition to any connection with nuclear weapons to create a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free World. Let us stigmatize nuclear weapons for what they are and what they do. War and Weapons Must End on behalf of the Planet!

We close with a truth-telling quote from the Conference from Commander Robert Green, Royal Navy Retired: “Current global stalemate over nuclear arms is due to a nuclear protection racket that is being conducted by U.S. led, organized crime syndicate for the benefit of the military industrial complex, using nuclear deterrence dogma as a counterfeit currency of power.” “This Treaty is going to break through that. We have rumbled them. We are going to go ahead and do this.”


Nominate Peacemakers for 2018

It’s time once again to nominate notable Peacemakers for our annual Awards Ceremony. As always, we are seeking those whose efforts, vision, and spirit lead us on the way to peace. One should be a person of faith whose peacemaking has reached people across the nation in his/her efforts to teach peace, make peace, and be peace. The other should be a person of faith whose work is helping to transform metropolitan New York into the City of God.

Please nominate one or both who fit these descriptions, have inspired you, and will draw others to our cause. Send a paragraph for each to the PCMNY office by November 8th. Designate if each nominee is for the national or local award. Tell us why you think he or she should be honored as a peacemaker. And please include contact information for your nominees. Send an e-mail message to info@nypaxchristi.org, and be sure to include all required information detailed online. Thanks!
**What about Hitler?**

by Rosemarie Pace

Most likely you’ve heard that question, “What about Hitler?” more than once if you try to convince some people that war is never justified. Surely there have been good wars, and WWII was certainly one of them. Also, the Catholic Church teaches a Just War Theory. Right?

Well, not so fast. Maybe not. As we reported in this newsletter last year, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (now part of the newly formed Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development) and Pax Christi International hosted a conference at the Vatican in April, 2016 that produced “An Appeal to the Catholic Church to recommit to the centrality of Gospel nonviolence” and gave birth to the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. It also inspired Pope Francis’s 2017 World Peace Day Message, “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace.” There is even talk of a possible encyclical on nonviolence and a new Just Peace Theory to complement, supersede, or even replace the Just War Theory.

So “What about Hitler?” This year’s PCMNY Fall Assembly takes that question head on. Our theme is Choosing Gospel Nonviolence in a Time of Terror and Turmoil. Our speakers are Dr. Robert Brimlow, author of the book, *What about Hitler?* and Judy Coode, Coordinator of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.

If you haven’t read it, but have the opportunity to, I highly recommend you get a copy of *What about Hitler?* and read it before the Fall Assembly on November 4th at Manhattan College. It’s not an easy book, but it’s a very thought-provoking one that is worth your time and effort. The subtitle sums up the challenge nicely, Wrestling with Jesus’s Call to Nonviolence in an Evil World. Dr. Brimlow is a philosopher who uses logic to unravel the argument for war. He also cites scholars who have written at length to defend it. What might not be expected from a philosophy professor in addressing such a topic are his meditations on Christian scripture and the autobiographical prologues to each chapter. The meditations are presented in the form of prayers. The prologues are stories of personal experiences that can be funny, poignant, and humble revelations of the authentic man behind the author.

Dr. Brimlow is actually a fine teacher. His first chapter provides the “Foundations of the Just War,” so if you don’t know the theory or have forgotten it, this chapter will give the background you need. He then moves on to place “The Just War in Contemporary Thought.” At times, you might actually think he is supporting Just War because he does such a fair job of acknowledging the perspectives that advocate it. His third chapter is called “The Good Wars.” Chapter Four, “Terror,” takes on September 11th, 2001 and its aftershocks directly with no attempt to skirt the legitimate fears and dangers. Despite being such a realist, Dr. Brimlow is able to punch holes in just war theory with intelligence, knowledge, and faith. In Chapter Five he returns to his title question by examining “The Men Behind the Hitler Question.” Some of the names that appear in this chapter may not surprise, but some may. You will find Stalin, Pol Pot, Pinochet, and Mao, but you will also find Gandhi and Bonhoeffer, among others. You’re likely to read some unexpected opinions about people you thought you knew. Chapter Six discusses the “Success, Failure, and Hypocrisy” of violence, pacifism, and the people behind them. Even Jesus is included in the mix with a key consideration being what is success and what is failure. Chapter Seven, “The Christian Response,” is by far the shortest chapter, but this is by no means a slight; rather it is much like Jesus’s answer to the question about the greatest commandment. Ultimately, it can be stated simply and profoundly. As Dr. Brimlow writes, “That’s it. There is nothing else—or rather, anything else is only a footnote to this.” While I will not provide the response—I save that for you to read the book and/or come to the Assembly—I will assure you that there are actually two more chapters in the book, “Elaboration” and “Elaborating upon the Elaboration.”

Complementing Dr. Brimlow’s talk, Judy Coode will be updating us on the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative since its inception last year. This will give us an opportunity to learn, contemplate, and act for a more nonviolent world in the spirit of our own faith.

Click here for an Assembly brochure. Don’t miss it!
Farewell and Welcome!

Pax Christi Metro New York extends sincere and deep gratitude to three departing members of the Board: Fr. Nelson Belizario, O.Carm.; Abigail Abyssalh Metzger; and Fr. Jim Noonan, MM. Fr. Nelson leaves the Board, but not PCMNY, due to the demands of running two merged parishes. We are happy that he will continue to join us at events with his parishioners and will remain a supporter of our Parishes for Peace program. Similarly, Abigail leaves due to time constraints, but she, too, remains committed to Pax Christi, especially at the UN. Fr. Jim has been challenged by health issues for many months, but retains his good spirit and faithful resolve. We will miss them sorely, but are so grateful for the times we had together.

Simultaneously, PCMNY is very pleased to welcome Terry Febles and John Kemp to the Board.

Terry Febles, a native Brooklynite, currently lives in Bay Ridge and is a member of St. Andrew the Apostle parish. She has been active in the parish, formerly as a catechist, and now heads up the Women's Spirituality Group. St. Andrew's has returned to being a Pax Christi Metro New York parish and Terry looks forward to the parish becoming more involved in working to spread the Pax Christi message. Personally, she sees her involvement as an integral part of her spiritual growth.

John Kemp, also a parishioner of St. Andrew the Apostle in Bay Ridge, brings a background in finance, policy development, team leadership, staff training, and project management to the Board. His extensive experience in community development includes Brooklyn Congregations United, South-West Brooklyn Congregations, the Dialogue Project, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Bread for the World, and St. Andrew’s Social Justice Ministry.

PCMNY is eager to welcome additional Board members. Please contact the office for more information and to nominate yourself or someone else (with his/her permission) you think would be an asset to our organizational leadership.

The Still Emerging Consistent Ethic of Life

by Jim Kelly with input from Mary Liepold

At Eastern University, just outside of Philadelphia, on August 4-6, 2017, the Consistent Life Network, of which Pax Christi USA is a long-standing member, held its 30th Anniversary Conference entitled: Bridging the Life-Peace Divide. Kerux readers would have found much of the conference workshops familiar, but they would have found fascinating much—as it gets zero press—which they hadn’t realized before. First, the familiar.

In their much discussed May 1983 statement, The Challenge of Peace, the United States Catholic Bishops taught that the traditional just war theory prohibition against the direct killing of noncombatants included abortion. “When we accept violence in any form as commonplace, our sensitivities become dulled... Abortion in particular blunts a sense of the sacredness of human life. In a society where the innocent unborn are killed wantonly, how can we expect people to feel righteous revulsion at the act of killing noncombatants in war?” (#284).

In his December 6, 1983 Fordham University address, “A Consistent Ethic of Life: An American Catholic Dialogue,” the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin advanced the framing crystallization of a consistent ethic. “If one contends, as we do, that the right of every fetus to be born should be protected by civil law and supported by civil consensus, then our moral, political and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth. Those who defend the right of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker. Such a quality of life posture translates into specific political and economic positions on tax policy, employment generation, welfare policy, nutrition and feeding programs and health care. Consistency means we cannot have it both ways. We cannot urge a compassionate society and vigorous public policy to protect the rights of the unborn and then argue that compassion on behalf of the needy undermines the moral fiber of the society or is beyond the proper scope of governmental responsibility.”

The consistent ethic framing took root. In 1987 the Consistent Life Network formed and by 2003 comprised over 120 groups. Those who signed onto the (continued on page 6...)
Network included representatives from Feminists for Life; the Mennonites; the Southern Baptist Convention; Pax Christi; the Buddhist Vihara Society; the Dalai Lama; Daniel Berrigan, SJ; Agnostics for Life; and the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL). At this year’s Conference, it was gratifying to see the diversity continue. There were Mennonites, Quakers, Evangelicals, and self-proclaimed atheists, as well as us Catholics. In addition and of note for those of us who wonder and worry “where are the young people?”, there were lots of very smart, very radical young women who seem as serious about peace as they do about abortion which, as one would expect, was a prominent issue.

During the workshops, the PLAGAL session was well attended and fascinating in its connecting the rejection of violence with the innate dignity of each form of human life. Sessions involving Atheists for Life, Secular Pro-Life, and Pro-life Humanists described their going to these distinctively non-religious gatherings and setting up tables with their consistent ethic of life literature and engaging atheist, secularists, and humanists in first-time and surprising dialogue about abortion and its long-term cultural significance.

Especially in our Trumpian era another important conference theme was Democrats For Life. While it now appears predictable that committed legal abortion opponents find their political home in the Republican Party, and legal abortion advocates in the Democratic Party, the historical fact is the exact opposite. Early abortion opponents placed their political hopes entirely in the Democratic Party. Typical is the dramatic example of Ellen McCormack, the housewife leader of the Long Island, New York Women for the Unborn who, knowingly quixotic, succeeded in obtaining enough registered voters to place her name in the 1975 democratic primaries in 20 states. She qualified for matching federal funds for her primary campaign and was nominated for President at the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

Democrats for Life, even if wondrously successful, is but a small, though necessary, step in the ongoing effort to grasp the final meaning of the opposition to abortion. As Cardinal Bernardin had argued in his 1983 Fordham University address “A Consistent Ethic of Life: An American Catholic Dialogue,” “the principle that human life cannot directly be taken … cannot be successfully sustained on one count and similarly eroded in a similar situation.” In teleological terms, we can put it more starkly: Abortion opponents cannot finally succeed unless they also oppose war; conversely, opponents of all wars cannot succeed unless they also oppose abortion. In fact, the originating radical core insight of Democrats for Life is that a resort to violence in any form is a negation of the human good; hence, a resurgence of Democrats for Life and a flourishing of the entire Consistent Ethic of Life Network can only be a cause for hope in the radical pro-life movement and illumination of what it requires of us.

Jim Kelly is a member of Pax Christi Downtown Brooklyn and the PCMNY Education Committee. Mary Liepold is Chairperson of Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore. Both presented at the Consistent Ethic of Life Conference in August 2017.

A Gift of Peace has been given in honor of:  
Stephanie Abraitis D’Ostilio  
John Bucki, SJ  
S. Helen Kearney, CSJ  
Angela & Howard Sántamaria-Schwartz  
Denise Tavana & John Rymdzionek

And in memory of:  
Sr. Daniel Elizabeth Bloodworth, MSBT;  
Fr. Neil Connolly  
Fr. Michael Crosby, OFMCap  
John Fitzgerald  
James Owen Simpson Flynn  
Sr. Genevieve Gomez, MSBT  
Anne Marie Herkommer  
Hilda & Francis John Lewis  
Jack Muddyman  
Kathleen Nolan  
Fr. Christopher Reilly, ST  
Sr. Violet Sampour  
S. Alice Wheeler, CSJ

Please remember them in prayer.
Announcements:

UN International Peace Day
In honor of this important day, PCMNY will host, “Dorothy Day: Communion of Faith and Action in the Pursuit of Peace.” Our speakers will be Martha Hennessy, one of Dorothy Day’s granddaughters and peacemaker in her own right, and Robert Ellsberg, editor-in-chief of Orbis Books, editor of several books on Day, and member of the Advisory Council of the Dorothy Day Guild. Join us at St. Joseph’s Church in Greenwich Village, where Day’s Catholic faith was conceived, on Sunday, September 24th, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM.

Fall Assembly
Last year, peacemakers from around the globe met at the Vatican to discuss Gospel Nonviolence, Just War and Just Peace. One outcome of their meeting was the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. This year, PCMNY offers an update on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative with our Fall Assembly, Choosing Gospel Nonviolence in a Time of Terror and Turmoil. Join us at Manhattan College on Saturday, November 4th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Judy Coode of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and Robert Brimlow, philosopher and author of What about Hitler? will be our speakers. Click here for an online brochure to register.

Human Rights/Holy Innocents Event
This year’s event will feature three short films from Brave New Films, “Home is a Human Right: A Series on Immigration.” Sr. Mary Beth Moore, SC, Assistant Coordinator of Centro Corazon de Maria on eastern Long Island, which serves the immigrant population there, and Mario Russell, Director of Catholic Charities Immigrant and Refugee Services in the Archdiocese of NY, will facilitate discussion. Date: December 10th. Time: 2:30-4:30 PM. Location: TBA.

Peacemaking through the Arts, 2018
On Sunday afternoon, January 28th, 2018, we will be hosting the internationally acclaimed a cappella quartet, Windborne, whose music spans many continents and cultures, but is deeply rooted in American folk singing traditions and promotes social action. You can get a taste of their beautiful harmony at http://www.windbornesingers.com/. Location: Casserly Hall, St. Joseph’s Church, Greenwich Village, NY. Time: 3:00-5:00 PM. More details to come toward the end of 2017.

Also upcoming:
Ash Wednesday Leafleting, Feb. 14
Retreat with Mary Anne Muller, Mar. 2-4
Good Friday Way of the Cross, Mar. 30
Peacemaker Awards Reception, June 3

See our Events web page for more information.

Annual Appeal
We’re beginning a new year at PCMNY and with a new year comes a new appeal for your support. Please reflect on the many reasons you value PCMNY and respond as generously as possible when you receive your letter in October. Thanks!

Other Ways to Support Your Pax Christi Region:
Support us by searching the Internet with GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo) or shopping online with GoodShop.com. Just indicate Pax Christi Metro New York as your charity. You can also turn your online shopping and searching into much-needed donations at: www.iGive.com/PaxChristiMetroNewYork and http://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-3424349.

“Gifts of Peace”: Donate to PCMNY in honor of those you love, whether they’re celebrating a special holiday, a birthday, anniversary, jubilee, or new baby, are in need of encouragement, or mourning a loss. Cards are available from the PCMNY office for a recommended donation of $5 each.

Pennies for Peace: On your own or with others, collect pennies throughout the year. Convert them to dollars and send them to PCMNY as a year-end gift.

Matching Gifts: Ask your company if it will match your gift to PCMNY.

Bequests: Please remember PCMNY in your will. Our legal name is Pax Christi Metro New York and our tax ID number is 13-3424349.
Upcoming Events

Sept. 19th: Fall Assembly Mailing, PCMNY office
Sept. 24th: UN International Peace Day Event, St. Joseph’s Church, 2:30-4:30 PM
Sept. 26th: Board Meeting, St. Joseph’s Parish House, 6:30 PM
Oct. 18th: Annual Appeal Mailing, PCMNY office
Nov. 4th: Fall Assembly, Manhattan College, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Nov. 8th: Deadline to nominate a Peacemaker for 2018
Nov. 28th: Board Meeting, St. Joseph’s Parish House, 6:30 PM
Nov. 29th: 2nd Annual Appeal Mailing, PCMNY office
Dec. 1st: Kerux Deadline for Winter Issue
Dec. 10th: Human Rights Day/Holy Innocents Event, Location TBA, 2:30-4:30 PM
Dec. 13th: Peacemaking through the Arts Mailing, PCMNY office
Jan. 4th: Board Meeting/Epiphany Party, St. Joseph’s Parish House, 6:30 PM
Jan. 28th: Peacemaking through the Arts, Casserly Hall, St. Joseph’s Church, 3:00-5:00 PM

Contact the office for updated information on all events:
info@nypaxchristi.org, 212-420-0250, or www.nypaxchristi.org.
Also visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

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