In the Bronx, Catholic Charities Found
“Room in the Inn.”

We are all too familiar with the horrific crisis the U.S. government has created with its family separation policy at our southern border. Children as young as nursing infants, children with disabilities, sick children, toddlers and pre-schoolers have been taken from their parents, sent across the country, placed with strangers, and left without knowing where their parents are, if they have been abandoned, and when or if they will see their moms and dads again. According to news reports, some have been well cared for, but not all. With reunification now a mandate, many still remain in limbo because precise records of who belongs to whom and where both children and their parents are have not been maintained.

Nevertheless, we here in New York can be proud of the good work that Catholic Charities has done to address this very sad situation. Below are excerpts of letters written by Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, providing an eyewitness account of their efforts.

June 26th, 2018
Dear Colleagues,

The humanitarian and moral crises of children being separated from their parents is rightly at the center of media attention. It is a policy, to quote Cardinal Dolan, that is “both un-biblical and un-American.”

From our Catholic Charities perspective, we are concerned and engaged because this effects the lives of the children and families entrusted to our care and the services that are at the core of our century-old mission of providing help and creating hope for the poor and vulnerable, non-Catholics and Catholics alike.

Let me share with you a few items on how the Church and Catholic Charities is responding:

- Last Thursday [June 21], at Cardinal Dolan’s request, Fr. Eric Cruz, Fr. Esteban Sanchez, Sr. Carol Barnes, SC, Catholic Charities NY Director of Government and Community Relations Luz Tavarez, and I went to McAllen, Texas on an interfaith mission of prayer, support and solidarity for those suffering from recent shifts in immigration enforcement policies. We visited with the children and families at a Catholic Charities respite center a few miles from the border and were able to express our solidarity in a time of anxiety and pain….

- Last Friday [June 22], I was with Cardinal Dolan as he visited some of these children, now, for the time being, living safely in the former convent of a Bronx parish and being well cared for by one of our Catholic Charities agencies….

- Last Monday [June 25], I met with the staff of Catholic Charities immigration and refugee services at our main center in downtown Manhattan to reassure them of our support and solidarity as they continue their committed work….

July 12, 2018

On Tuesday evening [July 10], when the first two families separated at the border were reunited in New York, I, along with a few other Catholic Charities staff welcomed them to the warmth and safety of one of our agencies in the Bronx. One was a dad from Guatemala, Adan, and his four-year-old son Juan. The other, Javier from Honduras with his son, William, also four. We ate a simple meal together in a family-like dining room. We prayed the Our Father together. One of our staff lent the dads her

(continued on page 2...)
cell phone to contact their families back home to let them know they were safe and back together. Their rooms were readied. They were sparkling clean, and in each bedroom there were toys for the children and basic toiletries for the dads. The backyard was prepared so the children could play outside. We purchased a few $50 gift cards so the families could go to the local stores for basics. In the midst of this, our Catholic Charities attorney and social worker were on-hand making sure their paperwork was in order and that the families would comply with the terms of their release from detention to make their next week court appearances—one in Louisiana, the other in Kansas....

I write with very mixed feelings—anger, relief, satisfaction, anxiety, passion, commitment. The immigration crisis facing our nation remains, even as the recent egregious policy, the unnecessary separation of children from their parents, has been slightly abated. Numerous others pose needless and at times cruel challenges to immigrants and refugees. In our experience, these policies do not further the security of our country—in fact, they endanger it. Catholic Charities re-commits to our century-old mission of welcoming and integrating newcomers to our blessed country. The work continues long after media attention ends. As we have for decades, we will call for and work for comprehensive immigration policy. We support securing our borders, and do not support illegal immigration. We believe in a fair and generous legal immigration system. And for those currently lacking the right papers, a fair way to earn them. We need this not only for immigrants themselves but for the best interests of our nation as a whole.

I need to thank many:

- Catholic Charities’ legal team that has provided individual consultations to each of the approximately 350 separated children who have been placed in New York during the past two months.....

- Catholic Charities’ agencies, Catholic Guardian Services and Lincoln Hall, who have provided safe, professional, and compassionate care to these separated children and to many other unaccompanied minors....

- Catholic Charities’ social services staff in offices, residences, courts, etc. who adapt and respond to the changing needs of immigrants and refugees with professionalism and compassion.

- Those in the “back offices” who support the infrastructure that makes work on the frontlines possible.

- Our Boards and donors who provide the important oversight, encouragement and resources to do this work, and the flexibility to be present in moments of crises.

My feelings remain very mixed, but the dedication and goodness of so many helps to deal with some of the darkness.

Thank you.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Let Us Share the Journey: A Prayer for the Global Migration Campaign

from Catholic Charities USA/Catholic Relief Services, www.sharejourney.org

Adonai, loving God, Many are the journeys your people have taken: Abraham’s journey led from fear to understanding; Moses’ journey led from bondage to liberty; the disciples’ journey led from death to new life.

Even today, your people journey—immigrants and refugees, pilgrims and nomads, searching for hope, searching for opportunity, searching for peace, searching for you.

Adonai, I know that I too am called to journey. Yet too many times, I have heard your call, and my feet have remained unmoved.

Continue to call me beyond my comfort and into encounter. And when I meet a companion on the road, may we find you in each other’s embrace. Let us share the journey.

Amen.

I prayerfully commit to participate in caring for immigrants and refugees in my community and/or around the world by:

(Write down one action you commit to do as a part of the global migration campaign. Then, post what you’re doing and why, and invite others to do the same. Be sure to include #sharejourney in your post!)

For ideas on what you can do, visit sharejourney.org, and follow #sharejourney on social media.
Protesting Nuclear Weapons at Büchel Air Base

by Anthony Donovan

This past June Pax Christi Metro New York awarded Sisters Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte for their decades of consistent witness to peace and nuclear abolition, in particular. Over the month and a half of intense deliberations with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, they led prayers at the Isaiah Wall before each day began, then entered to work.

The day after 122 nations adopted this Treaty, July 7th, 2017, to our great applause, the two jumped on a plane to join the Peace Camp outside the Büchel Air Base in Germany where 20 U.S. B-61 H-Bombs are readied to murder untold millions. Along with other actions, they entered the base and got to hand the Commander, with deep emotion, this fresh-off-the-press “Ban Treaty”.

Their sharing their moving experience with fellow abolitioners from around the globe had fully inspired me to join the Peace Camp for 11 days this July.

They shared the “Nuclear Prayer” which guided them each morning by Büchel’s gate, with which I would begin each day one year later, the same prayer PCMNY would read aloud in Washington Square Park for their annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial.

We were led by the able experience of John LaForge and Bonnie Urfer of Wisconsin’s Nukewatch, and Marion Küpker, who’s been organizing this camp for the past 22 years, along with other long-time activists. The wonderful support team provided tents, outdoor shower, food, cooking, meeting tents, tables filled with literature, generator for electricity for microphones and projectors for presentations, etc.

We had direct reports from our activists dealing with our nuclear weapon industries in Georgia, Missouri and Idaho. We had rainy days, cold and very hot days, and it all worked. We had a warm campfire at night to reflect on the day and our galaxies above.

Day One began the necessary community and trust-building exercises. Whenever discussing ideas for actions that might reflect our shared passion for ending the scourge of illegal nuclear weapon atrocity, we collected our cell phones and put them at a distance. Together we cooked food (two volunteers made this their prime service).

In the main meeting tent was a large photo of some close friends, the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 who this past April 4th were arrested and jailed for entering the largest U.S. nuclear weapon carrying submarine base. In my mind constantly was connecting their noble actions with those here in Germany. (See page 4 for Marth Hennessey’s reflection on the Kings Bay Plowshares action.)

Each day held actions, somedays blocking the main gate from early in the morning with our banners, “U.S. H-Bombs Out of Germany” (Nukewatch) and others. On two days we blocked all three gates to the Air Base for several hours. Always we were open to conversations and conscious compassion toward all who worked there. I for one was sorry for any personal inconvenience to workers and soldiers and don’t have an instinct to destroy property (cutting a fence), rather preferring to build, but the overwhelming reality of continuing a world of nuclear weapons outweighed this discomfort. Echoing in my mind was Sr. Megan Rice’s, “We each have an obligation to expose crimes. These fences are hiding the truth.”

(continued on page 4...)

Kerux No. 118 2018 Fall

“Kerux” is the Greek word meaning “herald”. As the name of our newsletter, it reminds us that we are to be heralds of God’s nonviolent love. We welcome letters, articles and reviews.

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Terry Febles
John Kemp
Joe McDonough

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Editor: Anne Bjornson
(Protesting, continued from pg 3)

Perhaps most encouraging was the youth group from Russia, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy and Germany. Deeply gratifying to feel the torch being handed to caring, intelligent souls. They magnified Hope.

Our major action, July 15th, formed five separate teams, mostly of three. We ranged in age from 18 to mid-70s. We rehearsed, role played various possible reactions we would face from the military guards, developed plans of communication for during and what might come after. We heard from the base, “this year will be stricter than last.” Not knowing what this meant, we were going to test their and our resolve. Invaluably, each of our teams was assigned a dedicated support group that would have our contacts, witness with us to the perimeter, record, keep their eyes and ears open, and cheer us forward.

In broad daylight, the teams swiftly spread out along the perimeter, cut through the initial fence, then the rolls of razor wire. One team got to a nuclear bomb bunker, another to the runway. All read our statement containing international laws these devices violate, dating from the late 1800s to 1946 to the present. Some went directly into prayer.

I was deeply touched by our treatment. The juxtaposition with our Plowshares colleagues for very similar action was stark and, for us, fortunate. We were not forced to the ground, not handcuffed, not interrogated, not imprisoned, fined, nor charged. After a few hours and taking our info we were set free, and ASKED not to come within 100 meters of the base for 24 hours. In fewer than 12, we were blocking outside the front gate once again. The Police arrived and turned any personnel trying to get into the base away, not us. The event was covered by area press. There is a distinct feeling that the German military and police have a much deeper understanding of these devices and why we were there.

In gratitude upon returning home, my thrust continues to encourage Divestment from the nuclear weapon industry.

I learned much. Germany deepened my faith in the power of a small group of committed community, in mankind, and in God.

Reflections from a Kings Bay Plowshares Activist
by Martha Hennessy

Let us praise the name of God, for God commanded and we were created.
Psalm 148:5

To begin to comprehend our capacity for omnipotence, and what this small group called Kings Bay Plowshares is attempting to reveal to our own people, is a daunting thing. When I awake in the morning, feeling the radio frequency monitor on my ankle, and thinking of the months of legal maneuvers and trial ahead, never mind possible prison time, I ask for the Blessed Mother’s help.

Read more at: https://www.pressenza.com/2018/08/germany-vs-united-states-justice-compared/.

(continued on pg 5)
(Reflections, from page 4...)

My first full understanding of what nuclear bombs do came with my adolescent reading of John Her-shey’s *Hiroshima*. How and why would we do such a thing? How can we undo what is staring us in the face now? Recently I am reading Daniel Ellsberg’s book *The Doomsday Machine* reminding us we cannot unlearn what we have done but we can dismantle the nuclear arsenal, and we must. We left Dan’s book at the door of the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic as a testimony to our urgent need for penance, to turn back and change the direction we are pursuing with such compulsion. We also delivered an indictment for the base commander, our president, and of the Trident weapons system to let them know that we desire to follow the rule of law and they must follow the people’s lead. The abuse of power, resources, the planet, and of the human race must stop.

Sometimes I find myself feeling like I don’t have the strength to go on. This swirling death machine that includes the judicial, military, economic, and political systems of empire is already crushing millions as if they are not our fellow brothers and sisters. Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, Somalia, Niger, Honduras come to mind. The sustenance given to us in our love of God, family, community, and the glory of Creation, not this endless war-making, is how we proclaim the Good News.

Dan Berrigan spoke of truly having only the Eucharist and each other. Dorothy Day reminds us that there is no time for becoming hopeless; there is too much work to be done. We always have Christ and the Gospel teachings to guide us.

Knowing all this on a cognitive and spiritual level, for me there still remains the struggle to surmount the inclinations of our human nature simply to tend to our own immediate comforts. We turn away from the unpleasant realities of our flaws and shortcomings that pop up every day. My husband asked the question, “Why didn’t you get 50,000 people to block the gate?” Why is it so difficult to engage the public in this life and death situation of our nuclear arsenal? We have lived with the nuclear sword of Damocles over the world’s head for decades now. My son stated that we haven’t used these weapons since 1945 so why worry now.

In my lifetime I have seen erosion of truth and love of God in so many spheres of social discourse, economic pursuits, and political ambition. Our national spending priorities reflect the paucity of humane thinking; one weapons manufacturer receives as many federal dollars as the U.S. State Depart-

ment. The weapons industry employs 700 to 1,000 lobbyists who have their way with the people’s Congress and money. War in the 21st century alone has cost over 5 trillion dollars with most deaths being civilian (W. Hartung). What are we willing to do about this as citizens, what tactics should be considered? I am encouraged by the efforts of the Poor People’s Campaign and hope that more peace groups get behind this movement. Reverend William Barber is clearly dedicating his life to this struggle while suffering health issues.

For now the seven co-defendants of the Kings Bay Plowshares are confined by house detention and continued incarceration at the Glynn County Detention Center in southeast Georgia. Clare Grady from Ithaca; Patrick O’Neill from Garner, North Carolina; and Carmen Trotta of the New York Catholic Worker are on ankle monitors like myself and our activities are severely curtailed. Mark Colville from New Haven CT; Stephen Kelly from Oakland, California; and Liz McAlister from Baltimore are still being held pre-trial with significant bail and bond settings. Steve is not being offered conditional release due to a pending warrant relating to an action he took at the Bangor Trident naval base on the west coast in Washington. Mark, Liz, and Steve continue the works of mercy in visiting the prisoners. I cannot fully express my gratitude and respect for my co-defendants in their strength and holy commitment to world peace. Phil Berrigan spoke of the process of self-disarmament when participating in the Plowshares experiment in truth. We find ourselves closer to God when we place ourselves at risk within the context of faith community and with the poor. My reliance on God and prayer continues to grow as I face an uncertain future.

But I am happy to embody the message from Pope Francis that these weapons are immoral and we must bear witness against them.

Thank you.
Martha Hennessy
July 16th, 2018

*Martha Hennessy, Kings Bay Plowshares activist, travels and speaks on the topics of life and work in community, Catholic Social Teaching, and peace-making efforts in the tradition of the Catholic Worker movement.*
Farewell and Welcome!

Pax Christi Metro New York extends sincere and deep gratitude to S. Susan Wilcox who is departing from the PCMNY Board as of this September, the start of our new fiscal year. S. Susan’s term has ended and she has decided her time commitments require her to lighten her PCMNY responsibilities a bit—but not completely. Happily, S. Susan will remain on our Finance Committee, and we trust we will be able to count on her presence at events whenever possible. Still we will miss her on the Board and thank her for her years of service.

Simultaneously, PCMNY is very pleased to welcome Sr. Virginia Dorgan to the Board. Just this past June, we were honored to recognize Virginia, along with her colleague Sr. Kathleen Kanet, as two of our 2018 Peacemakers. Virginia is a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) who served in RSHM schools in Rome, Italy; Richmond, VA; Norfolk, VA; NYC, and then for eight years in NYC Jails. In 1990, she and Sr. Kathleen began work in the creative endeavor, Christian Initiative Center of International Learning (CIL). In 2006, the US branch of this organization changed its name to Network for Peace through Dialogue and emphasized the importance of dialogue in peacemaking. At the end of 2016, Virginia and Kathleen closed the Network and transferred all of its records to the Schlesinger Library at Harvard where they are available to researchers interested in how dialogue, peacemaking, and international understanding were fostered in this almost 30 year period. We look forward to benefitting from Sr. Virginia’s many diverse and relevant experiences and expertise.

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.

Nominate Peacemakers for 2019

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 7th. 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. Thanks!

When are we like God? I will tell you. In so far as we love compassion and practice it steadfastly. To that extent do we resemble the heavenly creator who practices these things ceaselessly in us.

Mechtild of Magdeburg

A Gift of Peace has been given in honor of:

Fr. Nelson Belizario, O Carm
Bill & Sue Carrington
James B. Flanagan
John Kemp
Mary Kay Land
Victor Right
Fr. Gregory Stankus
Joan D. Yukl
Mary Burns, SC
Meredith Drumm
Linda Flanagan
Fr. William Krlis
Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM
Daniel Joseph Rose
Catherine Stare, SC

And in memory of:

Milani Thangarajah Anitto
Sheila Croke
Michael Febles
Theresa Golda
Fr. Jack McSpirit, ST
Evelyn Moro
Manuel Ycaza
Sr. Eileen Cahill, CSJ
Sr. Mary Ann Dirr
LeRoy Ferguson, MCA
Anne E. Joyce, MCA
Eduardo Miranda, MCA
Fr. Jim Noonan, MM
Announcements:

UN International Day of Peace
In recognition of UN International Peace Day, we will host Alice Slater, whose affiliations include the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, World Beyond War, and Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Alice will address the topic, **Ending the Threat of Nuclear Destruction—Moving Towards a World Beyond War.** Join us on Sunday, September 16th, from 2 to 4 PM in the Arrupe Library, Xavier High School, 30 W. 16th Street, Manhattan.

UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
Join us on Wednesday, September 26th for an Inter-faith Prayer Service at the gazebo at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th Street and Second Avenue, at 12:45 PM. We must pray, study, and act to abolish these deadly weapons.

UN Day
On October 24th, Pax Christi Metro New York will be joining with Focolare and the International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation at the Center for Applied Judaism, 109 E. 39th Street, for an evening on nonviolent conflict resolution. We’ll be sharing experiences, introducing skills, and discovering ways to address the tensions that plague our daily lives in this divisive time. Join us from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Light refreshments available. Donations encouraged. Check back for registration information.

Fall Assembly
Once again we’ll be gathering at Manhattan College for this annual time to celebrate ourselves as the Pax Christi Metro New York community and to be inspired by a keynote speaker. This year, on Saturday, November 3rd, Dr. Joseph Fahey, PCUSA Ambassador of Peace, will be discussing The Catholic Call to World Community. The Assembly begins at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM. Registration will start in late September.

Human Rights/Holy Innocents
Plans are set to address the issue of the Rohingya at our annual Human Rights/Holy Innocents event on Sunday, December 9th from 2 to 4 PM at the Arrupe Library of Xavier H.S., 30 W. 16th Street, Manhattan. Adem Carroll, who works with the Burma Task Force, along with a Rohingya speaker (invited), will inform and update us on the tragic plight of the Rohingya people in Myanmar and in exile.

Peacemaking through the Arts
Our winter concert is still in production, but it will happen on Sunday afternoon, February 10th, 2019 at St. John Lutheran Church, 81 Christopher Street, Manhattan.

Retreat 2019
Be sure to hold the weekend of March 8-10 for our annual retreat. We’ll be returning to the Maryknoll Sisters Center where Sr. Anne McCarthy, OSB, will help us grow in the Spirituality of Nonviolence. Details to come in the coming months.

Annual Appeal
If you haven’t already done so, please reflect on the many reasons you value PCMNY, especially in the current political climate, and respond as generously as possible to our annual appeal. If you did respond, THANK YOU!

Other Ways to Support Your Pax Christi Region

On-Line Searching & Shopping: 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. 13<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting, PCMNY office, 6:30 PM
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>: UN International Peace Day, Xavier High School, 2:00-4:00 PM
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>: Fall Assembly Mailing, PCMNY Office
Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>: UN International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 12:45 PM
Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: *Transforming Our World By Building Conflict Resolution Skills*, Center for Applied Judaism, 6:30-8:30 PM
Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Fall Assembly, Manhattan College, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>: Deadline to Nominate a Peacemaker for 2019
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: Winter Appeal Mailing, PCMNY office
Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting, PCMNY office, 6:30 PM
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>: Kerux Deadline for Winter Issue
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Human Rights/Holy Innocents Event, Xavier High School, 2:00-4:00 PM
Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>: Peacemaking through the Arts Mailing, PCMNY office
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting/Epiphany Party, Redemptorist Guest House, 11:AM-2:00 PM
Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>: Peacemaking through the Arts, St. John Lutheran 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.