

Pax Christi USA

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT

Oppose "Complex 2030"

Dear Pax Christi USA Member,
Greetings of peace!
In 1998, 105 U.S. bishop members of Pax Christi USA issued an historic statement rejecting nuclear deterrence and calling for a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons just as biological and chemical weapons have been outlawed. The effort responded to what was at that time the largest expansion of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex since the Manhattan Project. Dubbed the Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, this \$60 billion reinvestment in upgrading the United States's capacity to design, test, and deploy nuclear weapons was, according to the Department of Energy, to ensure the reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent for 50 more years. The Pax Christi Bishops rejected this, citing their 1983 Peace Pastoral's insistence that deterrence could only be justified (if at all) as an interim measure and certainly not as a long-term basis for peace.

Now, only ten years later, the Bush Administration is pushing a new investment in U.S. nuclear weapons: Complex 2030. Similar in nature to the Stockpile Stewardship Program of the 1990s, Complex 2030 seeks a new \$150 billion investment to upgrade the entire U.S. nuclear weapons complex by 2030 and to ensure the usability and enduring role of these immoral weapons for the indefinite future.

Pax Christi USA has spoken out on this wasteful, illegal, and unnecessary effort. Last year, during the public comment phase for the proposed Complex 2030 program, PCUSA Ambassador of Peace Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM, delivered testimony in Washington on behalf of our

movement:
"Since its founding in 1972, Pax Christi USA has opposed the possession of nuclear weapons, their continued development, testing, deployment and threatened use, as a sinful affront to any moral order and a theft from the billions of men, women, and children in our world who daily struggle to find dignity and life amidst devastating and dehumanizing poverty. . . . When does it end? When will the insanity and immorality of mass investments in weapons of mass destruction finally be rejected? In the name of the 142 US Catholic bishop members of Pax Christi USA, in the name of the 650 Catholic religious communities of Pax Christi USA, in the name of our 350 local Pax Christi chapters across the US, and tens of thousands of Pax Christi USA members, our fervent hope is that that time is now."

A new public comment phase is about to open up, this time in response to a draft environmental impact assessment for the program. The Department of Energy (DOE) will hold hearings across the country, and individuals are entitled to offer public comment on the proposed program. Pax Christi USA is encouraging all our members, local groups, and parish and religious community sponsors to engage in this important process.

Pax Christi USA has a long and distinguished history of opposition to nuclear weapons. It is imperative at this critical moment that we raise our voices in opposition to Complex 2030. Included in this newsletter is a ballot for the "national referendum on the future of nuclear weapons." Please consider copying, filling out, and forwarding this "ballot" as a concrete

(Continued on pg. 8)



INSIDE

Executive director's letter	1
Peacemaking Day by Day quote	1
News updates and briefs	2-3
Backgrounder: Complex 2030:	
Nukes Forever!	4
Unofficial Ballot	
on Nuclear Weapons	5
Catholic Statement on Meeting with President Ahmadinejad	6
Lent 2008	7
Contact Information	8

PEACEMAKING:

Day by Day

"As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world—that is the myth of the 'atomic age'—as in being able to remake ourselves."

- Mahatma Gandhi

* This quote and hundreds more are available in Pax Christi USA's "Peacemaking Day by Day" (Volume II). Visit our Web site, www.paxchristiusa.org, to order your copy today, or contact our sales department for more information at 814-453-4955, ext. 231, or sales@paxchristiusa.org.

of Advent, but Lent starts very early in 2008—February 6th. We want to allow you time to plan ahead, as December and January will surely fly by.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank you for your support of Pax Christi USA. Pax Christi USA relies on member contributions to sustain the work of our movement for justice and peace. If you are like me, you are surely getting any number of year-end appeals for financial support. And while there are indeed all sorts of worthy and important organizations to support, I hope that you will prayerfully consider an extra gift, beyond your regular membership dues, to support Pax Christi USA and ensure that we end 2007 on secure financial footing. Simply fill out the enclosed 35th Anniversary Fund for Peace slip and return it to the national office in the envelope provided. You can also contribute online through our secure website, www.paxchristiusa.org. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and you can rest assured that your support is ensuring that Pax Christi USA remains a vital and prophetic voice in these deeply challenging times.

In peace,

Dave Robinson
Executive Director
Pax Christi USA

(Continued from pg. 1)

expression of your opposition to the DOE's "nuclear weapons forever" plan. Additional background materials and resources can be found on the Pax Christi USA website or by contacting Johnny Zokovitch at Johnnypcusa@yahoo.com.

As we move into the season of Advent, our longing for peace is deepened as we reflect on the birth and ministry of Jesus, his call to nonviolence, and his invitation to discipleship. This year, each day, at the same time, we are asking PCUSA members, friends, and all people of faith to take five minutes to join with others around the world in prayers for peace. We are asking people to pray for five minutes, one minute for each year of the war in Iraq, and pray this year will be the last. The time we are asking people to pray is 12:00pm EST. Any prayer for peace will do, but Pax Christi USA will be choosing a different prayer for peace each week of Advent, posting it on the PCUSA website, and making it available as a prayer card for individuals and groups. In addition to this Advent Prayer for Peace, Pax Christi USA is encouraging all its groups and members to take one concrete action for peace each week. Action suggestions and resources for Advent are available on the Pax Christi USA website.

I also want to call attention to the Lenten resources in this newsletter and the supplemental sales flyer. It is a little odd to be receiving these before the beginning

This holiday season, send greetings of peace with Christmas cards from Pax Christi USA!

Call us or visit our website

to see over a dozen different cards to share with your family and friends!



Wise Women Also Came
Artwork by Jan Richardson
Three women on an Advent pilgrimage. Inside: Matthew 2:10-11 and "This holiday season, may we too be overwhelmed with joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and his gifts of love and peace for our world. Blessings to you this Christmas."
Item No. 535-449
\$1.25 each or 10 for \$10 + s/h

Christmas Collage
In jewel tones of purple and dark red, with the inside verse: "Wishing you all the joy of the Christmas Season." Printed on high-gloss paper.
Item No. 535-252
\$1.25 each or 10 for \$10 + s/h



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Visit www.paxchristiusa.org for more educational and spiritual resources for peace.

**PAX CHRISTI
USA**

FR. JOHN RAUSCH ACCEPTS TEACHER OF PEACE AWARD AT DC EVENT

Fr. John S. Rausch, Glmy, accepted the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award at Trinity College in Washington, DC, at an event featuring keynote speaker E. J. Dionne, a columnist for *The Washington Post*. Fr. Rausch's work has included advocating for the people and the land of Appalachia, working to end and repair the environmental damage caused in that region, and seeking social justice for Appalachia's workers and citizens.

"John is very selfless and lives a very simple lifestyle—a model of compassion and dedication," stated Sr. Iris Ann Ledden, S.S.N.D. "He has been an advocate for the poor throughout his priestly life and, in my opinion, is a modern-day prophet. He lives out the Gospel message he preaches."

Most well-known for his commitment to the people and land of Appalachia, Fr. Rausch is also involved in other areas of concern within the Catholic peace and justice movement. He has picketed with strikers, educated within parishes, established worker-owned businesses, ministered to death row inmates, and been at the forefront of the Catholic environmental justice movement.

"When I present the social teachings of the Church, I rail against the 'self-made' person and rugged individualism. . . We live and grow because

of community," Fr. Rausch stated when named this year's recipient of the Teacher of Peace Award. "This award means that my friends and colleagues have stood together with me to speak some truth, to build some justice framework, and to do some acts of charity and service."

HOLY CROSS CAMPUS GROUP ATTENDS BOSTON PEACE RALLY

Students from Holy Cross journeyed to Boston to join thousands in protesting the Iraq War on October 27. The bus trip from the college to Boston was organized by the campus Pax Christi chapter. Holy Cross senior Sarah E. Fontaine says she's the first to admit that she has no clear solution to ending the war in Iraq, but that doesn't stop her from encouraging dialogue to explore nonviolent ways to resolve conflict.

"We should be calling peace every single day of our lives," said Holy Cross senior, Sarah E. Fontaine. "All I can see is that men and women my age—[U.S.] men and women—are dying in Iraq. This statement does not even call to mind the thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children who continue to suffer due to the civil unrest that plagues Iraq. If we do not call peace and an end to all war now, when will we?"

(Continued on next page)

PCUSA ORGANIZES CATHOLIC DELEGATION FOR AHMADINEJAD MEETING

In late September, Pax Christi USA organized a Catholic delegation to take part in an interfaith dialogue with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his visit to New York City.

"We are deeply concerned about the prospect of war with Iran, but I left today's meeting hopeful because of the statements made by President Ahmadinejad regarding the renunciation of war and the quest for peace," stated Joseph Fahey, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College and a member of the Catholic delegation. "This meeting was an attempt to build bridges with Iran despite the generally hostile reception President Ahmadinejad received here in New York City. We strongly believe that only through formal and informal diplomacy and respect for international law can there be peace between Iran and the U.S."

This dialogue was the third in a series of conversations over the past year. The dialogues have included frank discussions on the Holocaust, nuclear weapons, the role of religion in peacemaking, Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the use of hostile rhetoric.

"Our message today, both in our words and by our actions, is that our country and our political leaders need to engage Iran in respectful and meaningful dialogue in order to overcome the historical enmity that has existed between our two nations," said Dave Robinson, Pax Christi USA Executive Director. "We need our leaders to put aside the threats of war and to engage now—to have what President Ahmadinejad asked for today: sincere and fair negotiations."

The meeting with President Ahmadinejad was covered in the *New York Times*, Catholic News Service, and on the PBS program "NOW."

Act for Peace During Lent: February 6th through March 23rd

Last year during Lent as we approached the 4th anniversary of the war in Iraq, Pax Christi USA invited members and friends to participate in actions aimed at ending the war and moving that region forward into a future aimed at achieving peace. The Pax Christi USA sign-on statement on the 4th anniversary of the war in Iraq served as a centerpiece for that campaign—providing the context and analysis for our prayer, study, and action during Lent.

Sadly, as we approach another season of Lent and the 5th anniversary of the war, our prayer, study, and action for peace in Iraq is still needed. And rather than witnessing the first fruits of peace in that region in five years, we now must also attend to the very real possibility of a military confrontation with Iran.

Lent begins early this year—Ash Wednesday is February 6—and ends with Easter on March 23, just a few days after the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq. In the coming weeks, Pax Christi USA will be providing individuals, local and campus groups, and regions with information and resources to pray, study, and act for peace during the 2008 Lenten season. These include:

- Way of the Cross booklets by Sr. Joan Chittister and Dr. Megan McKenna
- Specially designed prayers and liturgies for peace, repentance, and hope, including various "Stations of the Cross" and litanies
- Articles and columns by Dave Robinson, Stephen Zunes, Phyllis Bennis, and others on the situations in Iraq, Iran, Palestine/Israel, and elsewhere which will give context to our prayer and action
- A call for Good Friday actions and commemorative actions on the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq
- Also watch for our 2008 Lenten reflection booklet
- And more. . .

Lent signifies a time of repentance, resistance, and renewal, and we are encouraged to practice the spiritual disciplines of fasting, praying, and almsgiving. Let us walk the Way of the Cross together this Lent with all those who are oppressed and suffering under the violence of war, and let us walk confidently that Way, knowing and believing in the power of the Resurrection.

Look for more Lenten resources on the website (beginning in mid-December for your Lenten planning), in the winter issue of The Catholic Peace Voice, and on upcoming emails on the Rapid Response Network.



LENT 2008

a time of
repentance,
resistance,
and renewal

We are a group of Roman Catholics who met with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran on Sept. 26, 2007, in New York City during an interfaith gathering of religious leaders from North America organized by the Mennonite Central Committee. We met with President Ahmadinejad in part because we are deeply concerned about a potential American military attack on Iran. We fear that the prospect of war with Iran is increasingly likely. The unsavory reception that the President of Iran received in New York City demonized not only him personally but also the people of Iran. While we recognize that President Ahmadinejad's own words and actions have exacerbated this confrontation with Washington, we are convinced that dialogue rather than war is the only rational course. Therefore, we issue an urgent call to tone down the rhetoric concerning Iran and to engage in a positive campaign of understanding, communication, and common action based on common interests.

Our meeting with President Ahmadinejad was respectful and courteous. We listened to him and he to us; we engaged in a frank exchange of topics that both unite us and divide us including the very difficult issues around the Holocaust, human rights, and the Iranian nuclear program. We pledged to continue our frank but polite conversations and President Ahmadinejad welcomed this effort and pledged to continue this dialogue. We recognize that meetings such as ours with the President of Iran cannot possibly resolve important differences between the people of Iran and the United States but they are a beginning. They set us on the road to peace and honesty. They challenge us to stay the course to peace and we pledge to do precisely that.

As Catholic Christians we follow the call of the prophet Isaiah to beat "swords into plowshares" and "spears into pruning hooks." We accept the challenge of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." But love for others involves neither passivity nor the acceptance of the status quo. An active love for others resists evil deeds in a nonviolent manner and this alone can result in justice and reconciliation. During these troubled times in which war between the United States and Iran could break out at any moment, we are inspired by our Pope and the Bishops of the United States in their call for negotiations and dialogue rather than war as the only secure path to peace

in our world. We recall the words of Blessed Pope John XXIII in his encyclical Peace on Earth, "There is reason to hope . . . that by meeting and negotiating, [people] may come to discover better the bonds that unite them. . ."

We call on all Catholics to urge the United States government to pursue every path possible to resolve the differences between Iran and the United States in a peaceful manner. We urge reliance on the United Nations; the use of mediation and arbitration; increased trade, intellectual, artistic, and athletic exchanges; formal and informal communication between religious leaders; and citizen and student exchanges as the only authentic path to peace between our two great nations. Peace is possible. Indeed it is the only way.

Signed,

- Dr. Terrance Tilly, President-elect, Catholic Theological Association*
- Carole Schinnick, SSND, Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious*
- Drew Christiansen, SJ, Editor in Chief, America Magazine*
- Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK*
- Sr. Eileen Gannon, OP, Dominican Leadership Conference*
- Dr. Joseph Fahey, Professor of Religious Studies, Manhattan College*
- Rev. Dr. Elias D. Mallon, SA*
- Susan Weissert, Maryknoll Aids Task Force*
- Caroljean Willie, UN Representative, Elizabeth Seton Federation*
- Dr. Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco*
- Jean Stokan, Policy Director, Pax Christi USA*
- David Robinson, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA*

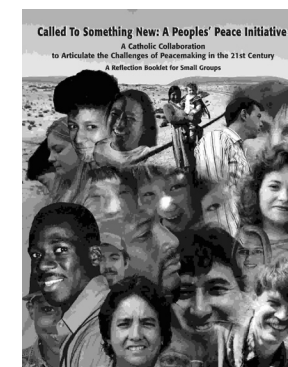
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The Boston rally was one of 11 anti-war rallies to take place around the nation on October 27, called for by United for Peace and Justice, the largest anti-war coalition in the nation.

"Rallies like this bring to people's consciousness that the war is still going on," says Fontaine. "People continue to question the need for violence. We are just hoping to raise awareness and to put pressure on all of our leaders to readjust our strategy."

PAX CHRISTI SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOLDS ASSEMBLY

Members of the Pax Christi Southern California region met October 6 at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles to discuss "spiritual peace in a world divided by war, racism, poverty, and violence." The event was facilitated by Jean Stokan, policy director for Pax Christi USA, and concluded with a Mass celebrated by PCUSA Bishop-President Gabino Zavala.



"Called to Something New" booklet: input for the national document is due by December 31!

The event was organized around "The Peoples' Peace Initiative," a series of discussions with the purpose of articulating the challenges to peace in the 21st century and facilitated through a workbook entitled "Called to Something New: A Peoples' Peace Initiative." The information collected from the Los Angeles assembly will be combined with the national results to develop a final national peace initiative document that will be written in the next few years. Stokan said she hopes the national discussion sessions will do more than result in a document.

"It has a two-fold purpose," she said. "It is to write a document, but it is also to invigorate peace and justice work at the grassroots level."

Father Chris Ponnet, pastor of St. Camillus Catholic Center and co-director of Pax Christi Los Angeles, said that his hope for the assembly was to gather people from throughout the archdiocese to contribute to the peace discussions. He said the event successfully brought people who had

never been to a Pax Christi event before. His goal was not only for people to "get enriched" from the small group sessions but to contribute to the national document.

"The longer term goal is to affirm and activate people against this war and against all forms of violence," Father Ponnet said.

TEXAS PAX CHRISTI GROUP PARTICIPATES IN RALLY AT THE BORDER

Bishop Raymundo J. Peña of the Diocese of Brownsville was the keynote speaker at the Brownsville No Border Wall Pachanga in the Park on September 29. The Bishop, whose diocese operates 107 parishes and missions for the almost 800,000 Catholics who live in the Rio Grande Valley, has been outspoken against the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. His opposition echoes the sentiment of the Vatican, where a top official has called the U.S. plan to build a border wall "inhuman."

Bishop Raymundo J. Peña's (TX) outspoken opposition to the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border echoes the sentiment of the Vatican, where a top official has called the U.S. plan to build a border wall "inhuman."

In this border region where many residents have ties to Mexico and where the presence of the Catholic Church predates the founding of the United States, many Catholics agree. As Mark Peña, local coordinator for Holy Spirit Peace and Justice/Pax Christi USA, a Catholic peace and justice organization, explains, "Christ calls each of us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The proposed border wall is hostile to this great call. Latin America and its peoples are our neighbors in the truest sense."

The Brownsville No Border Wall Pachanga in the Park highlighted the culture and community spirit of Brownsville and the Texas-Mexico border. Participants showed the nation what is at risk if a wall is built through Brownsville and along the rest of the border, including their close relationship with their Mexican neighbors.

“Complex 2030” is the latest euphemism assigned to the United States nuclear weapons research and manufacturing complex of the future. The United States plans to spend \$150 billion over the next 25 years to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with new “Reliable Replacement Warheads” by the year 2030 and to establish the capability to produce new nuclear weapons designs. Complex 2030 means “Nukes Forever!”

On October 19, 2006, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency within the Department of Energy (DOE), announced its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Complex 2030—the latest in a long string of DOE proposals to provide environmental compliance cover for the endless

refurbishment of the nuclear weapons complex. Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the initial phase of this process provides for public input into the “scope” of the environmental review, which must, by law, analyze “reasonable alternatives.” Scoping meetings on Complex 2030 were held at a dozen locations around the United States, in communities near nuclear weapons facilities and in Washington, DC. (See Pax Christi USA’s statement at the Washington, DC, hearing at www.paxchristiusa.org)

The only good thing about Complex 2030 is that it’s visible. The proposed project is tantamount to a U.S. declaration of “nukes

forever” and a repudiation of its obligation under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to end the arms race “at an early date” and to negotiate “in good faith” the elimination of its nuclear arsenal.

Indefinite maintenance of a huge, sophisticated nuclear arsenal, by the only country that has so far used nuclear weapons, is an unreasonable, unacceptable, and unlawful alternative. The only reasonable alternative is nuclear abolition. The United

States, in compliance with its obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, should commit to the elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2030, by initiating negotiations leading to conclusion of a verifiable treaty, under strict and effective international control.

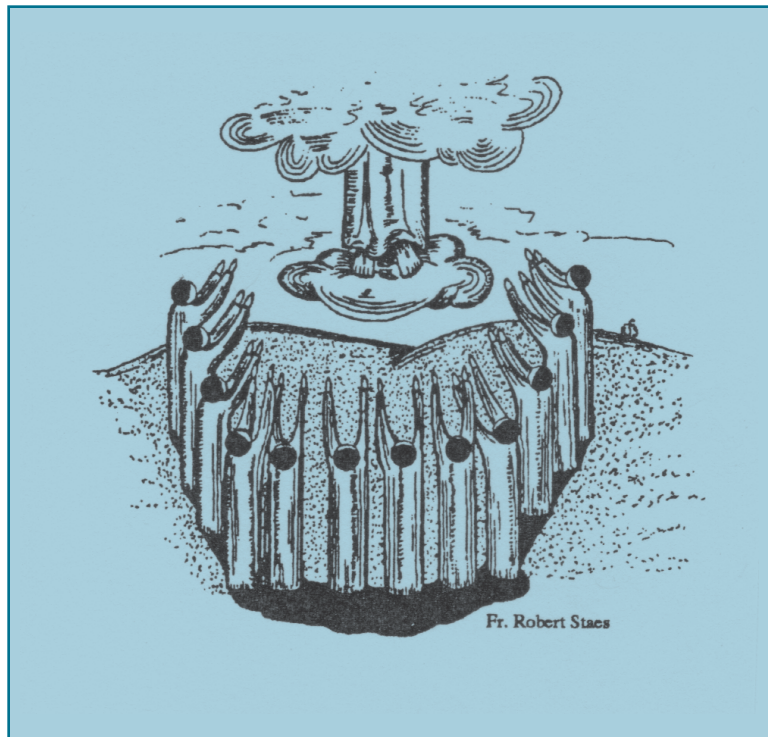
Once the scope of the EIS is determined, the NNSA will release a draft study, currently anticipated in November 2007. A public comment period of at least 45 days will follow, with more public hearings. The final EIS is expected in May 2008, and the NNSA could reach a formal Record of Decision to implement Complex 2030 as early as June 2008.

Help turn the Complex 2030 EIS process into a national referendum on the future of nuclear weapons!

Cast your “vote” for the elimination of nuclear weapons by printing out, filling in, and mailing copies of the unofficial “ballot” to the Department of Energy, your two Senators, and your Representative.

From Western States Legal Foundation

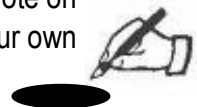
The United States plans to spend \$150 billion over the next 25 years to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with new “Reliable Replacement Warheads” and to establish the capability to produce new nuclear weapons designs. Complex 2030 means “Nukes Forever!” Cast your “vote” for the elimination of nuclear weapons!



Fr. Robert Staes

UNOFFICIAL BALLOT NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: USE BLACK OR BLUE PEN ONLY. To vote on Measures A and B, fill in the oval after the word “Yes” or “No.” You may add your own comments below.



MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

NATIONAL

A Shall the United States proceed with a \$150 billion plan to modernize its nuclear weapons research, development and manufacturing complex in order to replace its existing nuclear weapons and establish the capacity to build new types of nuclear weapons by the year 2030 (“Complex 2030”)?

YES
NO

B Shall the United States, in compliance with its obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, commit to the global elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2030 by initiating negotiations leading to conclusion of a verifiable treaty, under strict and effective international control?

YES
NO

COMMENTS:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____