



## Statement of Purpose

Pax Christi USA strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation.

Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

**N**onviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart and it must be inseparable part of our very being. - Gandhi

## Please join us...

### Weekly Peace Vigil

Every Friday

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

MLK Memorial - Currie Park

2400 N. Flagler Drive

West Palm Beach, FL



### Pax Christi Palm Beach

Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday of Month

7:00 p.m.

St. Ann Gymnasium  
Ministry Room  
(NE corner of parking garage)

Corner of 3rd Street and  
Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL

## Pax Christi Palm Beach

A local chapter of  
the international  
Catholic peace  
movement,  
Pax Christi  
International



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[www.paxchristipalmbeach.wordpress.com](http://www.paxchristipalmbeach.wordpress.com)

## History

In 1945, a small group of people in France met regularly to pray for peace. Their concern was not a vague one. What bothered them, what kept them coming together was their experience of an agonizing and dreadful fact: French Catholics and German Catholics, who professed the same faith and celebrated the same Eucharist, had killed one another by the millions in the 20th century. That situation could hardly be the will of God, as they understood it. So they prayed for forgiveness, for reconciliation, for the peace of Christ.

A French woman, Marie-Marthe Dortel Claudot, is known as the leader and founder of the movement. She invited a French bishop, Pierre Marie Theas, to be the first Bishop President. While in a German war prison camp in Compiègne, Bishop Theas had already begun to pray and work for reconciliation.

Soon after the war, Pax Christi centers were established in France and Germany; by the early 1950's the movement had spread to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium.

Pax Christi began in the United States in 1972, thanks to the initiative of a tiny handful of U.S. Catholics, mostly lay. There was no national office or full time staff person until 1979, and then the entire office was set up in two spare rooms of a Chicago convent. The national office moved to Erie, Pennsylvania in 1985 and remains there today.

Pax Christi is active in more than 30 countries, with a growing presence in Latin America and Africa. Our national office is located in Erie, Pa., and an international office and staff are located in Brussels, Belgium. Pax Christi has consultative status as a non-governmental organization at the United Nations.

Wherever they live throughout the world, members of Pax Christi are united by their purpose, which is expressed in the international statutes: "to work for peace for all humankind, always witnessing to the peace of Christ." They do this through prayer, study and action.

Pax Christi Palm Beach was formed in 1983. PCPB is a local chapter of Pax Christi Florida which is a regional branch of Pax Christi USA. PCUSA is a section of Pax Christi International.

**M**ovements like yours are precious. They help draw people's attention to the violence which shatters the harmony between human beings which is at the heart of creation. They help to develop conscience, so that justice and the search for the common good can prevail in the relations between individuals and peoples. These are the foundations of lasting peace."

- Pope John Paul II, speaking to members of Pax Christi International (May, 1995)

## Membership Form

I support Pax Christi's Statement of Purpose found in the brochure and want to become a member:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to attend Pax Christi Palm Beach's monthly meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in Pax Christi Palm Beach's weekly peace vigil.

Note: Pax Christi Palm Beach does not have any membership dues and while it is not a requirement, we do encourage our members to join Pax Christi USA. Membership brochures are available through Pax Christi Palm Beach.

### Mail this form to:

Pax Christi Palm Beach  
4855A Equestrian Rd.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Be sure to visit our Web site!  
[www.paxchristipalmbeach.wordpress.com](http://www.paxchristipalmbeach.wordpress.com)