

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Pax Christi Maine's primary purpose is to work with all people for peace and justice for all humankind and for a more sustainable world, always witnessing to the Peace of Christ through nonviolent means. Pax Christi Maine 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.

This work, rooted in a Gospel vision of peace and the sacredness of all human life and of all Creation, begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action seeking to transform structures of society.



In pursuit of its goals, Pax Christi Maine seeks to develop peace communities whose members ground their action in prayer and study and who also network with those sharing common goals and nonviolent methods.



Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, Bishop President of PCUSA presenting Teacher of Peace award to Marie Dennis, Director Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Pax Christi International

Pax Christi Maine is a Region of Pax Christi USA, which is a Section of Pax Christi International, a Catholic peace and justice movement which has representation status at the United Nations in New York and Vienna, the UN Human Rights Commission and Sub-Commission in Geneva, UNESCO in Paris and UNICEF in New York.

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## PRIORITIES

Pax Christi Maine shares the priorities of Pax Christi USA, which are:

- Spirituality of nonviolence and peacemaking
- Disarmament, demilitarization and reconciliation with justice
- Economic and interracial justice in the United States
- Human Rights and global restoration

In addition PCM Includes: A just world order, primacy of conscience, education for peace, non-violent conflict resolution, and all aspects of social justice, including equality for women.

LEADERSHIP of PCM consists of two Co- Coordinators and a Council of representatives from each local group plus at-large members, The Council meets monthly, and via telephone conferencing as needed.

STATEWIDE GATHERINGS are held throughout the year including a Spring Assembly and a Fall Retreat.



PCM Co- Coordinators with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton ,one of the founders of Pax Christi USA, at a national conference

Local groups meet to study and expand their knowledge and understanding of Catholic social teaching, the inter-relatedness of social and environmental issues and to deepen their commitment to Gospel Nonviolence. Their action takes many forms, such as peace vigils, educational programs, writing letters to newspapers and legislative or congressional representatives, joining peace walks, preparing educational materials for distribution in faith communities and joining with others to oppose war, violence and personal and structural racism.

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## HISTORY OF PAX CHRISTI MAINE

### ORIGINS OF PAX CHRISTI

Pax Christi originated at the end of WWII when French and German Catholics came together to pray for forgiveness and reconciliation and the peace of Christ. Pax Christi means Peace of Christ. The movement spread throughout Europe and in 1972 the United States chapter was founded.

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For information about membership in Pax Christi Maine, or how to form a local group please contact Co-Coordinator -

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(207) 223-4992 or

Denise Dreher: laffmom@yahoo.com  
(207) 286-9747

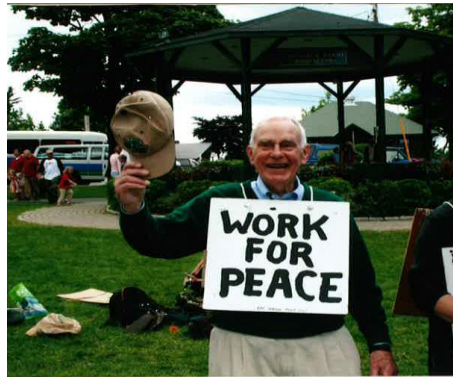
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“Peacemaking is not an option: it is a requirement of our faith”

The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1983

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Pax Christi Maine was founded by Fr. Jim Gower in 1980. Jim had served in the navy in WWII and rejected war thereafter. He took a leave of absence from his post as curate in Waterville and made two circuits of the country, driving from parish to parish, celebrating the Eucharist, preaching peace, then meeting with interested parishioners and urging them to join Pax Christi and gather a local group. Mainers responded by gathering several groups.



Fr. Jim Gower

In 1995 Pax Christi Maine hosted the national Assembly of Pax Christi USA. Annual retreats have been blessed with the spiritual and practical leadership of Daniel Berrigan, SJ, William Callahan, SJ, Richard Rohr, OFM, Rev. John Dear, Edwina Gately, Miguel D’Escoto, MM, Rev. Richard Snyder, Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB and many others.



**A peace and justice movement  
rooted in Catholic Social  
Teaching and the spirituality of  
Gospel nonviolence**