

# PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATOAA/ WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



Tēnā koutou katoa

*He ora te whakapiri, he mate te whakatariri.*

*There is strength in unity, defeat in anger.*

The month of May has certainly had its ups and downs. On the up side, the visit to many dioceses in New Zealand by Pax Christi has highlighted strength in unity in many when the common denominator is peace and justice. On the downside, the current situation in the Middle East where anger and violence has increased following The United States of America choosing to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and opened an embassy there; alongside pulling out of the 2015 nuclear agreement which would have seen Iran pulling back from their nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the month of May was when the new coalition government presented their budget. Some would argue there are no winners or losers in the package. Last month, the living wage of \$20.55/hr was introduced...it may help but not by much as the cost of food and housing continues to increase.

This month of May is about workers...those who work hard to make ends meet...those who work together to make their voice heard. If we are to have peace we need to take the whakataukī above more seriously. To have strength, we need unity; to have unity we need to listen attentively. If there is a lack of attentive listening, we have anger and violence and peace is defeated.

## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

**THE INFORMAL ECONOMY  
CAPTURING OVER HALF THE  
WORLD'S POPULATION**

**THE PAX CHRISTI  
PROMOTION TOUR**

**THE PAX CHRISTI  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AWARD FOR 2018**



## The Informal Economy capturing over half the world's employed population.

The ILO (International Labour Organisation) in a recently published report states that more than 60% of the world's employed population are in the informal economy. In total, this is around 2 billion people who are found primarily in emerging and developing countries.

If this figure is scrutinised more deeply then the breakdown will show that 63% of this number is men and around 740 million women.. These workers are found in low and lower middle-income streams in most

**60% of the world's employed population are in the informal economy**

vulnerable situations. The Asia Pacific region is classed as having one of the highest groups of informal workers – 68.2% outside Africa which has 85.8%. The informal economy is classified as workers who lack basic social protection and right at work as well as decent working conditions. As the costs of living increase, the possibility of more people looking to the informal economy sector to make ends meet, increase. Their vulnerability to exploitation also increases as cases of labour and sexual exploitation of people is high in this area.

For workers in the informal economy, it is necessary for governments to encourage a transition into the formal economy. Thus, inclusive development and decent work for all can be realised. Education is also a key factor that affects the number of people going into the informal sector. Individuals are less likely to go into the informal sector if they have completed secondary and tertiary education. To read the ILO report 'Women and Men in the informal economy: A statistical picture', go to [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_626831/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_626831/lang-en/index.htm) to download a copy.

## The Pax Christi Promotion Tour

Kevin and Barbara McBride with Bridget Crisp rsm, have in recent weeks been visiting several of the Dioceses in Aotearoa New Zealand. The aim is to connect with Justice and Peace representatives and talk about themes that came out of the Asia Pacific Consultation in December 2017 and the possibility of support and collaboration for the future in highlighting justice and peace.

The first stop was in Palmerston North, where we met three members of the Justice and Peace Commission: Lawrence O'Halloran, Mary Nash and Ken Thomas.



Left to right: Barbara McBride, Ken Thomas, Mary Nash, Lawrence O'Halloran and Kevin McBride. enjoying coffee and chat in Palmerston North.

Wellington Archdiocese followed Palmerston North where we met Sr Ruth Coleman PBVM and Lisa Beech from Wellington Catholic Social Services.



Left to right: Lisa Beech, Kevin McBride, Sr Ruth Coleman PBVM and Barbara McBride at Wellington Catholic Social Services.

In Christchurch, as well as meeting with Bishop Paul Martin, we also met with Barbara and Bob Te Miha and Ron Healing of the Christchurch Commission for Justice and Peace. In Dunedin, we had a large crowd gather to hear about Pax Christi and our work but like in other centres it was an opportunity to hear the range of issues that they were grappling with in their regions. The promotion tour continued also down to Invercargill where Kevin and Barbara went to after Dunedin to continue highlighting the Pax Christi movement.

From the feedback received on this tour, there are a range of issues that although speaking from a regional viewpoint also have importance on

## The Pax Christi Promotion Tour cont.

the national and international stage. Such issues like mental health/depression/farmer suicide, refugees, domestic and sexual violence, bullying in all spheres of society and the desire and need to explore more the bi-cultural relationship here within Aotearoa New Zealand through Māori spirituality. New relationships were fostered, which will hopefully continue to strengthen into the future.



Back: Ron Healing, Barbara Te Miha, Bob Te Miha  
Front: Barbara McBrde, Bridget Crisp RSM, Kevin McBride

## 2015 International Nuclear Pact in danger of collapsing

The US has recently pulled out of the 2015 agreement that would have slowed down and stopped Iran's nuclear programme and allowed Iran's trade to grow with the removal of sanctions on goods and services. This agreement is in danger of collapsing if other signatories follow the US.

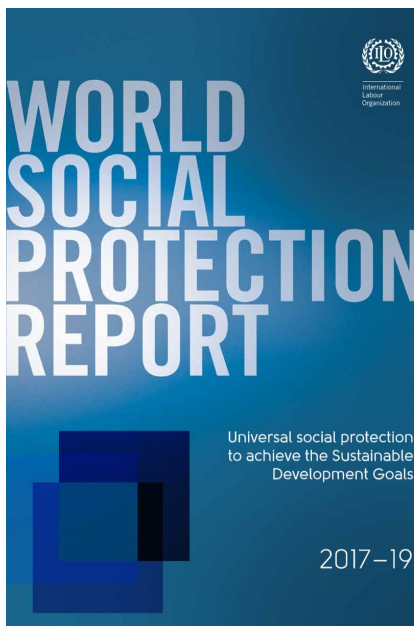
At present the European Union is working hard to keep the deal on the table. If the agreement collapses, the risk is a return to Iran continuing its uranium enrichment programme as well as the continued hardship of the Iranian people to goods and services, particularly related to food and medical supplies and equipment.

Pax Christi International has organised a letter to be signed and sent to all countries who are presently a part of the agreement as well as the US asking them to keep to the agreement. Catholic groups and section leaders have been asked to sign this letter on behalf of their organisation.

## Worth Reading

*World Social Protection Report 2017 -19.*  
by International Labour Organization (ILO)  
Published 29 November 2017.

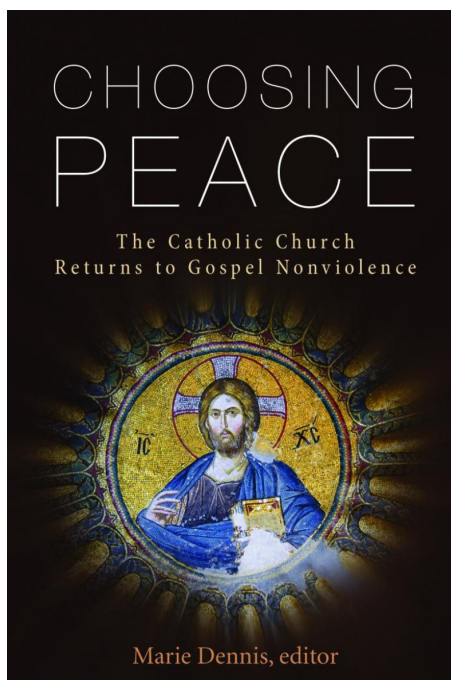
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from: [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_604882/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_604882/lang-en/index.htm)



*Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence.*

Editor: Marie Dennis

Published May 2018 by Orbis Books.



## Pax Christi International 2018 Peace Award

*'No Boundaries Coalition of USA'* is the recipient of the 2018 Pax Christi International Peace Award.

The No Boundaries Coalition is a Non-Profit formed in 2010 in the West Baltimore Community. It's focus has been public safety and access to healthy food as well as a range of services and activities that connects the community.

*"We admire the courageous work of the residents of West Baltimore who, confronted with ongoing systemic racism, economic exclusion and civic disconnection, jointly created the No Boundaries Coalition. We honour their steadfastness to transform their vulnerable community through nonviolent approaches, into viable and secure living spaces for all, across the boundaries of race, class and neighborhood,"* said Greet Vanaerschot, secretary general of Pax Christi International. *"The efforts of the No Boundaries Coalition to promote the dignity of the people of West Baltimore serve as an excellent model of active nonviolence."*

Source: Pax Christi International

## Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation. We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact [paxnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paxnz@xtra.co.nz) or ring 09 377 5541.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is:  
Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand  
03-01730353-867-00

Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Diary Dates

- May 29th** International Day of Peacekeepers.
- 1st June** Global Day of Parents
- 5th June** World Environment Day
- 8th June** World Oceans Day Anniversary (31 years) of NZ becoming nuclear free.
- 12th June** World day against child labour
- 15th June - 24th June**  
**Matariki: Te Tau Hou Māori**
- 20th June** World Refugee Day

*Next Month's newsletter will look at the theme for Environment/ Oceans and Matariki.*

*Any contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please email [paxnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paxnz@xtra.co.nz).*