

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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



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Tēnā koutou katoa

On July 29th we recognised Earth Overshoot Day. This means that a year's worth of the Earth's resources has been used or lost by the consumption patterns of humans. From now on, we are overshooting the ability of the Earth to restore and sustain itself. On average, it takes 1.75 earth's to meet humanity's demand of the Earth's Ecosystems. This little fact, as well as choices and strategies we can all take to reduce our consumption patterns can be found on www.overshootday.org.

Peace will forever be elusive if we don't look after our natural resources. Our consumption demands are very quickly depleting what the Earth can replenish. Conflict can erupt, when scarcity of essential resources namely fresh water, food and fuel for warmth are hard to come by.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and that it gives you some food for thought in helping to make choices and change attitudes that help make the world a better place.

Bridget Crisp rsm

The Energy Transition & Care of our Common Home

Last month, Pope Francis addressed executives, investors and experts in the oil and gas industry, who were meeting in Rome, at the invitation of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. The theme of this meeting was 'The Energy Transition & Care of our Common Home'.

Pope Francis was quite pointed in his address...

'Today's ecological crisis, especially climate change, threatens the very future of the human family. This is no exaggeration'. (2 paragraph)

and 'I would like to emphasize this: they our children and grandchildren should not have to pay – it is not right that they should pay – the price of our irresponsibility.' (4th paragraph).

Within the speech, Pope Francis encouraged all attendees to listen seriously to the scientific analysis that is coming out about climate change. Francis refers, within his address, to the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Pope Francis then elaborates on three points: a just transition, carbon pricing and transparency in reporting climate risk.

Energy Transition within the New Zealand context has different challenges to that of many other countries. Much of our energy use comes from renewables, but our problem stems from energy output that is 'lost' and thereby contributes to global warming and climate change. That energy is methane from agriculture production, primarily in the dairy sector. The NZ Government has invested resources to look at scientific solutions to reduce agriculture methane output but also ways to price the carbon coming out of agriculture production – which has been a cause for concern for our rural community. Yet, there

is encouraging news; in the last couple of days, a solution has appeared that both parties agree have merit – pricing the carbon emissions at the farm gate, rather than at the processing level. (For more on this please read NZ Herald article 'Land mark climate change breakthrough: Farmer agree to emission pricing' (16 July 2019) www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=12249957)

The last word is with Pope Francis who towards the end of his address, refers to Laudato Si, and instills hope:

'Today a radical energy transition is needed to save our common home. There is still hope and there remains time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, provided there is prompt and resolute action, for we know that "human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start. (Laudato Si', 205)' (11th paragraph).

To read the full transcript of Pope Francis address go to http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/june/documents/papa-francesco_20190614_compagnie-petrolifere.html .

Bridget Crisp rsm

Pax Christi International Meets – Brussels June 2019

About 30 section representatives and international staff met in Brussels for the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Pax Christi International on 26-7 June. Kevin and Barbara McBride represented New Zealand and also Australia, which couldn't get delegates to Brussels. The meeting, held over two days, had three major sessions; General Sharing of our Work; Business Meeting, including election of officers; all on the first day, and a facilitated "process creating a sense of role and relations" on the second day.

With only five minutes plus question time for each section, the first session was rather too crowded, leaving little time for presentation and discussion of each section's activities, as all 15 reports had to be concluded by lunchtime. We hardly got through a summary of our work and felt that it was a long way to travel for such an inadequate opportunity to give any explanation of the cultural background in which we work, nor of our work to develop a spirituality of peace appropriate to that environment. This applied in particular to our involvement in the Bicultural Committee of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission which facilitated the creation of a new Katorika Maori Committee, and in the satisfaction we felt in supporting West Papuan, Veronica Kanem, at her graduation from Waikato University, neither of which we had time to mention.

Following that, an election was held for new Co-Presidents and the International Executive which saw Bishop Marc Stenger of France and Loreto Sister Teresia Wamuyu Wachira of Kenya elected as co-presidents, replacing Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis who have served multiple terms. Six new members, including Paul Lansu, who had many years at the secretariat, were elected to the Executive Board. Bishop Antonio Ledesma of the Philippines remains as the sole representative for the Asia-Pacific region.

This session concluded with a brief review of plans for the upcoming 2020 World Assembly to be held in Hiroshima. The overall impression was that care must be taken to avoid an uneven balance between the visit to Hiroshima as a monument to the use, development and future storage of nuclear weapons, and the ongoing development of Pax Christi as a peace movement working in a wide range of contexts and regions. Perhaps there could be more focus on ways of developing positive and peaceful means of living at peace with a variety of people and the environment, in keeping with Pax Christi principles of faith and philosophy.

That evening, the Pax Christi Peace Prize for this year was awarded to the European Lawyers of Lesbos for their work to protect the human rights of refugees and migrants in crisis.

The following day was given over to a facilitated discussion on a Sustainable Future Peace Network where small groups looked at the past, present and future work of the movement. Although the conclusions from groups may prove useful for future planning, it might have been better if it had been preceded by a more comprehensive previous discussion on the present work of sections, particularly those working in a non-European context. It remains to be seen how the co-ordinated results of group discussions are processed and shared with sections so that they can be incorporated into their contexts.

This process illustrated that Pax Christi has still some way to go before becoming a truly international movement. It is to be hoped that the coming Hiroshima World Assembly provides a context for more comprehensive discussion on that topic.

As usual, it was great to meet and share stories with members of the wider movement and to respond to their interest in New Zealand and the overall Asia-Pacific region. It was also good to work alongside Jasmin Galace of the Philippines and to feel the growing sense of an Asia-Pacific regionalism which she leads.

We look forward to developing a strong representation of New Zealand's work for peace for all everywhere at the Hiroshima World Assembly. *Kevin and Barbara McBride*

Global peace stories: Grassroot activism that promote peace across the world.

The theme for the UN High Level Political Forum in New York (9 -18 July) was 'Empowering People and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The Forum's main task was to review Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. During this time, several non-governmental organisations (NGO's) had side events highlighting issues and actions at the grassroot level. One such side event, held on July 11th, was sponsored by a collective of NGOs', of which Pax Christi International was a co-sponsor. This side event was a global video campaign promoting global peace stories. The promotion of this campaign had a focus around sustainable development goal 16: 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, and inclusive institutions at all levels'. Representatives that shared stories were from: India & Pakistan, Guatemala, Nepal, Uganda, Nigeria, Philippines, Yemen, Afghanistan and Somaliland. Two representatives from the Philippines sharing their stories were Ariyssa Bianco Pabotoy and Sophia Dianne Garcia. Both are from Miriam College and both are members of Pax Christi Philippines.

Many of the stories shared stem from projects working alongside women and/or youth. A lot of the projects are around education (e.g. the law and their rights under the law), dialogue fostering reconciliation instead of hate and revenge and using natural resources in a sustainable way.

To watch the recorded session of this campaign, go to <https://www.facebook.com/IPInst/videos/2342158742544461/>.

Bridget Crisp rsm

Upcoming Event 2020 Pax Christi International World Assembly, Hiroshima, Japan

Save the date: **18th - 22nd May 2020**, in Hiroshima Japan is the Pax Christi International World Assembly. Emphasis within this assembly will be on the 75th anniversary of the beginning of Pax Christi International as well as the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

The world assembly will be held at the **Hiroshima Conference Center**.

Registrations for this Assembly will open in early August (keep an eye on the Pax Christi International website). Those thinking of going to the assembly will need to begin booking accommodation now.

There are several hotels that are within walking distance to the Hiroshima Conference Center.

A tentative outline of the assembly can be found on the Pax Christi International website:

www.paxchristi.net/sites/default/files/wa2020program-18june2019.pdf



Image: Pax Christi International

President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Japan and the need for Nuclear Disarmament.

The 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, as well as the 75th anniversary of Pax Christi is coming up in 2020.

Japan is highlighting extensively this year and next, the need to move away from nuclear weaponry, as several major international sporting events are being hosted in the country. Pope Francis is also planning to visit Japan in November. In preparation for the visit from Pope Francis, the President of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Japan issued the following statement:

2019 Ten Days of Prayer for Peace

A Message from the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

Peace is the fruit of the integral development of all people

On February 25, 1981, Pope St. John Paul II made a striking peace appeal in Hiroshima. In response to that appeal, since the following year the Japanese Church has annually marked the Ten Days of Prayer for Peace August 6-15 to think about and pray for peace. Pope Francis will visit Japan in November this year, 38 years and 9 months after John Paul's Hiroshima Peace Appeal, and we look forward to his sending a new peace message to the world.

Since becoming pope, Pope Francis has from time to time made remarks regarding peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. On July 7, 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted an historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. On the previous March 23, the pope delivered a message to the UN General Assembly. Terrorism, conflicts among those with different military power, security of information, environmental issues, poverty etc. are intertwined in a complex way, threatening the peace and security of the modern world. However, nuclear threats cannot respond effectively to such issues. Stability based on fear simply increases fear and compromises trusting relationships among nations. In that case, we must ask ourselves how stability can be maintained. "International peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation, or on simply maintaining a balance of power. Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for fundamental human rights, on the protection of creation, on the participation of all in public life, on trust between peoples, on the support of peaceful institutions, on access to education and health, on dialogue and solidarity." The Vatican was one of the first three countries to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (September 20), and in November sponsored a conference on nuclear disarmament: "Perspectives for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament".

According to Pope Francis, "the integral development of all people" means that there are no economic gaps or exclusion among peoples, no one is excluded from society and everyone can participate. It means that the economy, culture, family life, religion, etc. that are essential for human growth and development are secure, that the individual is a freely involved member of the community under God. A peace which is not "the result of integral development" will be doomed (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 219). Therefore, in order to build and secure peace and security in the world, it is necessary not only to eliminate the nuclear threat by abolishing nuclear weapons, but at the same time to make all people richer in all aspects.

With Pope Francis, we wholeheartedly pray to the God of peace that we can build peace by being deeply involved in the integral development of all while seeking the realization of the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let us begin that task by doing whatever we can.

+Mitsuaki Takami, Archbishop of Nagasaki
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan
July 7, 2019

(www.cbcj.catholic.jp/2019/07/18/19260/) *Original Source Material: Pax Christi International*

Worth Reading...

Listening to the People of the Land is available from Accent Publications. To order go to website: www.accentpublications.co.nz . The book is retailing for \$40.



Listening to the People of the Land

Christianity, Colonisation & the Path to Redemption

Edited by Susan Healy

Praying for Peace is available from Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand. To order go to paxnz@xtra.co.nz . The book is available for \$20 plus postage and packaging.

Praying for Peace

A selection of prayers and reflections



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 or ring 09 377 5541 / 021 72994.

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
Please contact us for a receipt.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

DIARY DATES

August 6th Hiroshima Remembrance

August 19th International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples

Sept 1st - Oct 4th Season of Creation



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