

SHOL Pax Christi Newton Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Attendees: Sioux M, Barbara A, Monica PT, Peg M

1. Opening Prayer (Sioux)

Blessed Mother of Christ and Queen of Peace, we turn to you again with hearts saddened by the state of our world. Hear our prayers for peace and strengthen our efforts to drive out the violence within our hearts, so that we may rightly call our leaders to implement equal justice, material well-being, and lasting safety from nuclear annihilation for all God's children. May we unite in our efforts to reflect your loving kindness toward our Common Home and all who dwell in it. Amen.

2. Night of Prayer for Peace – Schedule Restructuring (Sioux)

Decision: **Reduce in-person parish events from three to two per parish**, replacing dropped slots with Zoom sessions.

November at Sacred Heart dropped — too crowded with Holly Harvest and other parish events

May at Our Lady's dropped — conflicts with First Communions and Confirmations events

Revised schedule: **September and January at Our Lady's; March and July at Sacred Heart**; remaining months on Zoom.

The date for the next Night of Prayer for Peace is Friday, September 25th at Our Lady's. The choirs will be invited and there will be a small reception downstairs, like last year. Everyone is asked to contact Sioux if they can contribute to the reception.

3. Meeting Schedule Change (Sioux)

Decision: **Move regular meeting day from second Wednesday to first Tuesday of each month**, beginning September 1st.

4. Racial Justice Ministry Updates (Peg)

St. Ignatius Collaboration Status: No communications had been sent since early June. September program on Magnifica Humanitas potentially led by Tom Groome, retiring BC theology professor, if Fr. John can confirm his interest. In November, they will screen and host an in-person discussion of the film *Hidden in Plain Sight* (history of Black Catholics in Boston) previously delayed due to Roxbury Film Festival exclusivity window.

Proposed Fall/Winter Programming:

October planning for a Voting Rights Zoom Event. Potential speaker Joe Franco's wife (lawyer for the NAACP who has been working on a Mississippi voting rights case), or alternatively League of Women Voters (contact through Marguerite).

January: Focus on Affordable Housing – potential speaker Jason Korb (housing consultant, Newton South alum). Could integrate MCI Framingham's new transitional housing program for women.

Events to Advertise: Black Nativity (December), Las Posadas at St. Ignatius — Spanish/English nativity reflection, typically Sunday afternoon in December, MLK Celebration at Symphony Hall (January), Emancipation Proclamation Reading at Trinity Church, Copley Square — January 31st, 1:00 PM; features Black Poet Laureate Ray Wilson and Black spiritual music

5. Care for Creation Update (Barbara)

Season of Creation (September) Theme for 2026: "**Living Water**" — spiritual and ecological dimensions of water stewardship. Goal: **One dedicated mass at each parish** during September, not necessarily the same weekend.

- Mass elements: creation-themed music, homily tied to scripture and creation theme, prayers of the faithful, and the **Season of Creation banner** (displayed for the full month, possibly split two weeks per church).
- Contact Fr. Dan about availability. Could ask Deacon Bill Koffel to give a homily on the topic. Jesuits return in September and could also be asked to preach.
- Tree Planting at Our Lady's: Jared is conducting a soil sample to determine the best tree species, candidates include oak, serviceberry, walnut, and magnolia. Tree will be donated. Planting likely in October — favorable for cool-weather establishment. The group commits to conscientious care for the tree for the first two years.
- Composting at Sacred Heart: Ginny Arpino will help coordinate composting at coffee hours. SH does not currently recycle, making this a significant step forward.

Laudato Si and Magnifica Humanitas Four-Session Study

- **Alexander** will lead four weekly sessions integrating both documents, emphasizing their overlapping themes.
- Open to other churches and **interfaith participants** (Buddhists, Muslims, etc.)
- Format: **Monday evenings, 90 minutes**, two sessions in late October and two in early November, held in the lower hall at Our Lady's.
- Livestreaming/Zoom access: Our Lady's lacks reliable internet infrastructure, but Sioux and Peg suggested **hotspotting via phone** to stream on Zoom. Peg noted older specifically benefit from Zoom access for evening events.

Care for Creation team meeting: **next Wednesday (Aug 19) on Zoom**; Alexander joining from China.

6. General discussion

Advent Retreat

- Decision: **Pursue an Advent retreat**

- Consensus that Bernadine is well-suited; she completed a two-year **spiritual director certification through the Sisters of St. Joseph**.
- Group agreed **not to micromanage** the retreat planning process as was done previously.
- Option discussed: offer both a full-day and half-day structure so attendees with scheduling conflicts can attend one portion.
- Barbara to **contact Bernadine**; Sioux to check available dates at the parish.
- Retreat themes suggested: peace, care of creation, consumerism, waste, and social justice dimensions (Jesus as an immigrant).

Aug 9 Homily on Nuclear Weapons Abolition

- Father Dan delivered a homily at the **9:30 Mass at Sacred Heart** that addressed nuclear weapons abolition, drawing on **homily helpers** submitted by Barbara and Peter. (Also, at the 6 PM Mass at Our Lady's)
- The homily is available via the **parish live stream** (past masses); Sioux has an MP4 recording of the homily but needs to figure out how to make it available.
- Notable gap: Father Dan referenced D-Day and military service but **did not mention Hiroshima or Nagasaki** by name, which Barbara found disappointing given the importance of repentance.
- Prayers of the Faithful at that Mass also referred to peace and nuclear abolition

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 PM on Zoom** -> **FIRST TUESDAY OF SEPTEMBER**