

SHOL Pax Christi Newton Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 11th

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

1. **Opening Prayer** (Sioux) Written by Sarah Lea West, an artist Anglican priest in NZ

We lift up in prayer those who protest with weary bodies and fierce hearts.

Those who put themselves in harm's way to shield their neighbors.

Those who risk being arrested, hurt, or worse, because staying silent isn't an option anymore.

Hold them close, loving God. Keep them safe.

Don't let their courage turn into despair.

We pray for all who are living in fear for their lives.

For families trapped under occupation, watched, threatened.

For people doing their best to survive war, repression, and the unraveling of their world.

For parents, everywhere, trying to protect their children while acting like everything's fine.

God, stay near. Let them feel seen.

We remember those who have been killed.

Those whose names are read aloud lovingly at vigils and those whose names are never heard.

We remember those who are detained, locked up, disappeared, deported.

And we refuse to let their lives be reduced to borders or policies, or statistics.

God, we pray even for the ones it's hardest to pray for.

For those who carry out violence, who act without looking into the eyes of the people they harm, for those trapped by fear, nationalism, ideology, or the pull of power. Break through, God! Open their eyes to what's really happening. Give them courage to change course before more lives are taken.

We pray for your Church spread across the globe.

Where we've stayed silent – wake us up.

Where we've used your name to justify harm, call us back to repentance.

We pray for ourselves, wherever we are.

Teach us to speak up, to show up, to act with courage that actually costs us something.

Make us bold enough to love out loud and in public.

God of justice and mercy, may your kingdom come near enough to shatter the lie that this is okay.

Near enough to transform us all. Amen.

Updated stations for Deacon Bill

Heather Cox Richardson article on Joe McCarthy - there is hope God is with us on this terrible dark part of the journey

Call to action: **Keep writing to the bishops**

our prayer services nourish our spirits

4. **SHOL PAX Christi Meetings** (all).

Thank you everyone for coming to the January meeting with Pat Ferrone and Fr. Steve. It was great to hear about the outpouring of support they got for their nativity ICE statement.

Does anyone have a suggestion for other speakers that we should try to get to join a meeting?

5. **Membership** (Sioux)

I created a trifold pamphlet for SHOL PAX Christi Newton because I was invited to speak at a retreat and I used our September Night of Prayer for Peace as a witness. I will ask staff if we can keep these at the doors of both churches. *Any other ideas for how to increase membership? Should we have an information meeting in Lent or after Easter?*

6. **Environment** (Alexander and Barbara)

How did the Sunday meeting go? The meeting was postponed to March meeting on Zoom

What's going on for Earth Day?

7. **Upcoming** (all)

Any plans for Lent? I believe that PAX Christi USA does its Monday night prayer service in Lent. This year there is a book called "Peace Compels Us – Reflections for Lent 2026" it's available to pre-order now.

Order your 2026 Lenten reflection booklet today! – Pax Christ USA

Monday night prayer services during Lent, 8:30-9 PM Eastern

If anyone didn't get the information on this from PAX Christi USA email from Judy Coode, let me know.

Ann C recommends: GET THIS INTO THE BULLETIN

A False Sense of Security: The Catholic Church's View of Nuclear Weapons

By Jacques Linder, Holy Cross Visiting Instructor in Religious Studies and Montserrat

Friday, February 27, 2026 at 12:00 Noon EST

Nuclear weapons are thought to be a weapon of the Cold War, yet Pope Francis declared their possession immoral in 2017. Implicating the nuclear possessing states and their allies, this declaration emerged through the efforts of peacebuilders and disarmament advocates to bring the Church officially in line with nuclear abolition. What bearing might this proclamation have on our everyday lives? What responsibility and actions do Catholics, Holy Cross, and people of goodwill need to take as a result? What could God have to do with who builds (or financially benefits from) production of the bomb? Come contribute to a discussion on the promises and limits, continuities and discontinuities, of the contemporary moral discussions about nuclear weapons in Catholic and secular circles.

Venezuela update from Monica - people still in fear and under oppressive regime. While some political prisoners have been released, there is still limited freedom of expression. Hoping that the country can return to a more democratic state.

Book Recommendation by Ann C:

God's Fool at the End of the World, by **Javier Cercas**, a Spanish Catholic author invited by the Vatican to accompany Pope Francis to Mongolia

Read about it here:

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/05/18/javier-cercas-it-is-impossible-to-invent-something-as-exotic-as-the-vatican>

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11 at 7 PM on Zoom