

# PAXCHRISTI NEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie January 2016

**JOURNEYING FAR  
TO OPEN WIDE  
THE DOORS!**

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# PAX CHRISTI TRAVELS

Go forth to love and serve. Pages 6-10





# PAX CHRISTI

*Catholic Community*

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## Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm  
Friday 8:00am–12:00pm

## Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses.  
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

### Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am  
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow  
Wednesdays 6:00pm  
Thursdays 8:30am  
Fridays 8:30am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners, but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communication Arts Director, [mnault@paxchristi.com](mailto:mnault@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.



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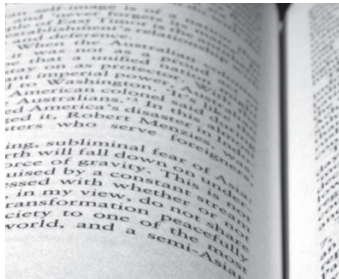
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# A NEW START!



**Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P.**  
Sr. Associate Pastor



**IT'S JANUARY**, and the New Year has just arrived. Thanks be to God that we survived another holiday season. It now extends from Halloween (it's just not for kids anymore) through Thanksgiving — feasting and football — and concludes with the great American shop-a-thon, Christmas. Maybe you didn't succumb to all of the allurements promised in the commercials and online. You might have even actually enjoyed being around family and friends over for dinner and out for office parties. But now that's over, at least in the popular American imagination. But not for us as men and women of faith in Jesus Christ. Our liturgical year, which began a month ago, follows its own rhythm and flow. So the twelve days of Christmas, starting on the 25th of December, don't conclude until January 6, the feast of Epiphany or the Three Kings. And if you really want to retain our older tradition, it can be stretched out until February 2nd when we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. This was the prescribed period of forty days after the birth of a first-born son when the child would be offered up to God in publically acknowledging a new member of God's holy people.

Another difference in our liturgical mindset is that

Epiphany is a more important feast than Christmas. When I heard this as a child, I could scarcely believe my ears. Christmas was the most important day of the year — when Baby Jesus was born — and we got lots of presents and candy! In fact, Christmas is only the fourth most important feast in the Church. Easter is the obvious winner, hands down. No resurrection and we would still be going to the synagogue! Then comes Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Without this community we wouldn't have the New Testament or any great feasts. Then comes Epiphany. Could this be because many European countries and Latin America celebrate gift-giving on this feast? This is their "Christmas" display of generosity. But theologically it is more universal in its meaning. Christmas was a family-centered event. Only a few of the neighbors, the shepherds, were invited to this event. With the arrival of the wise men, the kings, whoever they really were, this was the wider public, the world, the gentiles — us, getting a look at this Messiah. He was coming, not just for a few but for everyone. He was God the Father's gift to humanity.

But what I find interesting is that you can only find out about this event in the Gospel of Matthew. In fact the gospels

offer us very little information about this part of Jesus' life. Mark and John don't even begin with the infancy narrative. They start with a young Jewish man coming out of a small village and starting to preach a new understanding of God. Luke, who is concerned with the poor, women and gentiles, tells the story of the shepherds. His gospel actually gives us more of the stories of Jesus' infancy and childhood. But even then we have just a couple of chapters on this. It's Matthew who tells the story of the Magi that has always been a bit of a mystery to me. Matthew is the most Jewish of the four gospels. He quotes the Old Testament, the Jewish scriptures, more than the other three combined. Obviously his audience was familiar with them. So why focus on this story about the gentiles who came to honor the King of the Jews? But some other points of the story seem puzzling. If Joseph was of the house of King David, why wasn't he staying with relatives in Bethlehem? Middle Eastern hospitality demanded such openness, especially to family members. But had he ever been to Bethlehem before? One summer when I worked at a large parish in Lagos, Nigeria, I met many people who had lived their whole life in that sprawling city of millions. But when they spoke of their hometown, they





were speaking oftentimes of a small village in another part of the country. This was their ancestral home, even if they had never been there or only visited it on a few occasions. And what about the Star of Bethlehem that the Magi followed. When I worked at the Newman Center, Professor Karlis Kaufmanis was renowned for his famous "Star of Bethlehem" talk which he gave hundreds of times over the years. It wasn't so much a guiding star as one that informed the world or those who could read the signs. It was a unique constellation that said that there was a new king born among the Jews. So you go to the king, Herod, and ask him about it. This is how you get to the city of David, Bethlehem, and later cause chaos and heartache for the Holy Family and others. So Matthew was telling his audience and us that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the promises that God had made to his people, the Jews, and to all of humanity.

Yet in this New Year, we can be on a journey like the wise men. They went in search not

of adventure but of discovering someone new. Who or what that could be were a mystery to them. But they brought gifts and came to see what they could learn and do — for others and for themselves. This is also a good plan of operation for each and every one of us here at Pax Christi. We have just finished collecting food, clothing, and other household supplies for many people in need of basic necessities of life. There will be more opportunities during the coming months to help other individuals and families. But it isn't just about giving something. There are many opportunities through Pastoral Care and Social Justice that call us on a journey to step outside of our comfort zone and experience a new world that can bring some rewards to our life. One of the positive rewards for "risking," or trying something new is that we discover new things about ourselves like strengths, talents, and skills that we never knew we had. Even an old (or mature) dog can learn a few new tricks or skills. We also discover that we have much to



offer. So often we short change ourselves into thinking that we have nothing of importance to share or give. As I have said many times from the pulpit, our two most important gifts are those of ourselves and the irreplaceable gift of time. Both are personal and unique. We also open ourselves up to receive from others. When I started to preach in Spanish while living in Bolivia, I would sometimes grapple for a word. In those small communities worshipping in neighborhood chapels, the people would help me by speaking up and giving me the word I was looking for. As an American, I had so much, so what could they give me? It wasn't just a word or two but their love and help. We truly do

need each other, no matter who we are or where we are from.

If you are willing to start a new journey this New Year by getting involved in a new ministry, program, or activity here at the parish and beyond, I know that you will find something surprising and yet obvious. Like the Magi, you might "travel" far from home, your safe or comfort zone. But when you come to the end of another year, I believe that you will find that you are not lost or wandering around aimlessly. Instead you will find that you are still home, it's just that it's a new home which you have helped to build with the help of new brothers and sisters!





# PAX CHRISTI TRAVELS

**I LOVE** words like quest, journey, pilgrimage, travel. They are such active words conjuring up the image of both going out into the world and searching within ourselves.

Maybe my love of travel is why I'm so touched by the variety of crèches we see this time of year in homes, on front yards, and on greeting cards. Everyone in the scene has traveled afar, some on a quest and some out of necessity. Mary and Joseph, due to a census requirement, have to travel out of necessity. Although the story tells us that it's to the land of Joseph's ancestors, we have no reason to believe he has ever been to this place. They arrive in a strange land, with less than ideal accommodations, and yet an incredible transformation occurs. In addition, the shepherds are changed forever when they take a risk on their journey by leaving their herd behind so they can travel to this place. And of course the Magi travel the farthest and are certainly on a quest. The familiar carol tells us of their story:

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Tradition tells us that the Magi had heard about the coming of a King and then felt compelled to find Him. They follow a star which provided light for their quest. They spent a great deal of resources, traveled a great distance, and placed themselves at personal risk to seek Him. Once they found Him, the Wise Men did more than just bow down to Jesus; they "... fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh," (Matthew 2:11).

Like each person in the Nativity story, we are called to go out and offer our treasures. Pope Francis urges us to "go forth" with a "missionary impulse" to seek out God's children and open up our treasures. Our gifts may be the healing power of prayer and sacraments through Pax Christi care center volunteers, listening and offering words of support through our Spirituality and Mental Wellness group, the unconditional love of an animal in our Pet Visit ministry, the gift of presence by volunteering in Funeral or Companion Ministry. In order to encounter people where they need us, it may require that we travel out of our comfort zone and from our predictable routine into the unknown. At first, we may feel lonely, but we will soon discover that we are not alone. Our own personal crèche scene is created as others come to join us with their own treasures.

Fr. Richard Rohr encourages us to begin anew this New Year: *This feast of Epiphany, or the manifestation, shows us that God is manifest, is visible, is evident to us. God is shown forth wherever people are searching for love and light and truth...So as we begin a new year, let us challenge ourselves to be wise men and wise women. Let us journey with eyes searching to see the light, to see the truth, to see the love, to see the goodness – wherever it is found, by whatever name it carries. Let this be the year we, like the wise men, are willing to go on the same kind of stretching and perilous journeys to find the God that is always present and freely given to all.*

**The next few articles highlight several Pastoral Care ministries that happen on a daily basis but are hidden in our midst. As you read these, know that you are invited to join us on our journey.**

*Written by Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care.*



# HIDDEN TREASURES IN OUR VOLUNTEERS

**PASTORAL CARE** has many opportunities for its volunteers to contribute to the life and work of the church. Many of the volunteers are hidden from sight yet faithfully answer the call to serve behind the scenes.

One such volunteer is Sara Byerley, who volunteers her time in the Companion Ministry, as a Communion Minister at local Care Centers, and is a co-founder of the Pax Pets Ministry. In addition, Sara has served on the Pastoral Care Council. A convert to Catholicism, Sara was a deacon in a non-denominational church before converting to Catholicism in 1994. She and her spouse joined Pax Christi in 2009. She felt God's call or directive to reach out to people who needed pastoral care. "Everyone needs a smile, someone to listen to them as they are struggling with life issues," Sara says. The volunteers in Pastoral Care are part of a group at Pax Christi who feel in communion with others and offer care and support in many ways to those who are homebound, suffering loss of a loved one, have a serious illness, or are experiencing stresses too difficult to bear alone. "People do not need to feel they are alone, forgotten, unsupported by this faith community."



Sara Byerley

Sara says this about the Companion Ministry: "I receive more blessings than I ever give." Sara has met people of different backgrounds and made new friends. This is a two-way street. You need to sit and listen. You need to talk. Companion Ministry offers connections and support. "It's a great way to help people and give something to those who need support, both in our Catholic community and the community at large." Companion Ministers care, reach out, and listen.

Sara highly recommends "reaching out to others as part of membership in Pax Christi Catholic Community and as a follower of Jesus Christ."

Funeral Hospitality has a dynamic member active for over twenty years in the person of Earl Smith. Quite by accident, his wife Jeanne took Earl away from a round of golf to come to help her serve lunch after a funeral at Pax Christi. Together they served on this hospitality committee for several years. Earl liked that they could do it together as a couple. "It is a good cause," he says. At 89 years of age, Earl continues volunteering in this ministry though Jeanne passed away in 2000. "It is a good way for families to reminisce after the funeral, tell stories about the person who has died, and support each other a little longer."

It is a lot of work setting up the tables and chairs for lunch, so Earl gets to Pax Christi a bit early before the others arrive to do the food preparation and set the tables. He wants to be certain everything is ready for the guests. The father of four sons, Earl appreciates the care given when a loved one dies. He has buried Jeanne and a grandson, so he knows how much people appreciate the hospitality given by the Funeral Hospitality Committee.

"The volunteers are great to work with. You always make new friends this way. It is a dedicated team that shows hospitality to those grieving. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."

We welcome all new volunteers to the Pastoral Care Ministry. We commend our two spot-lighted volunteers. Thanks for serving others! *Written by Mary Payne, Pax Christi parishioner.*



Earl Smith

THE CHURCH'S PASTORAL  
MINISTRY EXISTS TO SUSTAIN  
THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL.  
ONE WAY IT DOES THIS  
IS BY NOURISHING AND  
STRENGTHENING LAY MEN AND  
WOMEN IN THEIR CALLING AND  
IDENTITY AS PEOPLE OF FAITH,  
AS CONTRIBUTORS TO THE LIFE  
AND WORK OF THE CHURCH,  
AND AS DISCIPLES WHOSE  
MISSION IS TO THE WORLD.  
—OUR HEARTS  
WERE BURNING WITHIN US





# TRAVELING FORTH WITH

Sixty-two Pax Christi parishioners, of all ages, traveled to four area care centers on December 6th to sing Christmas carols and deliver beautiful hand-made cards from our grade school faith formation children. They returned for pictures, cookie decorating and were then asked to write about their experience on the yellow cards. All agreed that the love they gave was returned ten-fold and hope to come back again next year!



## HIDDEN TREASURE OF OUR CARE CENTER VISITORS

**GO IN PEACE** to love and serve the world. The directive is clear. The response can be challenging. Each time we attend Mass, to be nourished by Word and Sacrament, we are instructed "to go forth" and do likewise. The gospels are full of examples of Jesus visiting the sick, healing the hurting, and loving all people. Encouraged by the Word of God and motivated by example, Pax Christi has over 40 dedicated volunteers who go forth each week to love and serve at area care centers.

Hidden from our view, they go out into our community each week to offer prayer and companionship to those in need. Some bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass, some prepare monthly Communion services to share Word and Sacrament, some provide music at care center Masses, and others assist residents in wheelchairs and walkers so they can attend these services. All are responding to the directive to love and serve by sharing their treasures of faith, hope, and love with those who are sick, aged, or dying.

"When the Church cares for the sick, it serves Christ himself in the suffering members of the Mystical Body." Pax Christi offers Mass monthly at Castle Ridge, The Colony, and Friendship Village. Communion services are provided weekly or monthly at Elim Shores, Summit Place, Dunganvin Homes, Pioneer Estates, and Brookdale Senior Living.

"In bringing Communion to them [sick, aged, dying] the minister of Communion represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at the Eucharist. For the sick the reception of Communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of support and concern shown by the Christian community for its members who are ill" (USCCB).

We are always in need of more care center visitors, so if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to love and serve, please contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7211.



# CHRISTMAS JOY



This is our 3rd year participating & we just love this family tradition. "The Best Way To Spread Cheer Is To Sing Loud For All To Hear!"  
 Quote By Elf

IT WAS FUN AND THE COOKIES WERE TASTY.

That's was the most rewarding thing I've done in a long time  
 Anne

my Baby Brother fell a sleep during SILENT nite  
 Brynn Pfeffer

Caroling made the elderly people so happy. It was fun for them to sing along.

It is so great to see the residents sing along with us! Some even make requests!!

Maia







## SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP

**FRENCH PHILOSOPHER** and Jesuit priest Teilhard de Chardin has said, *We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience.*

The wisdom of de Chardin starts with the premise that we are by nature spiritual, and our spirituality is based in believing that we are formed by a Creator who fashions us to "live fully."

At Pax Christi we have a Mental Health and Spirituality group that has been meeting monthly for over 12 years and values the spirituality of our tradition based in wellness and thriving. The group aims to address the spiritual dimension of human beings, providing a holistic approach to healing. A key part of this understanding is based on our belief in the Paschal Mystery which contains key moments of hardship, conflict, struggle, judgments, and painful events, and is a description of human experience. We also have life moments of reconciliation, peace and joy, where we feel we are resurrected. Jesus showed us how to use our "spirit to overcome" to believe that full life is possible.

With the premise that spirituality creates mental wellness, the Mental Health and Spirituality group, with the encouragement of de Chardin's words, re-envisioned itself and, through prayer and reflection, became the "Spirituality and Mental Wellness Group." This group aims to provide spiritual, supportive, and educational growth opportunities for its members.

Facilitator John Reardon, MA, certified Adlerian Counselor and State Registered Mental Health Worker, says, "This ministry provides a respectful place to explore the struggles, doubts, the fears that are part of our human experience. The group goes through this struggle together as equal members and attempts to find a sense of normalcy where we all know that people are working on adjusting to challenges, and using their courage and energy to live more fully."

If you are currently receiving counseling or therapy, you are invited to join this group and explore the spiritual dimension of your journey. If interested in additional information, please contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7211.

*Written by John Reardon and Jean Thoresen*



## HIDDEN TREASURE OF PAX PET VISIT MINISTRY

**THE DREAM** is now a reality. Pax's Pet Ministry teams are going out from Pax Christi, bringing comfort to people who need their days brightened. After successfully completing the training to become members of Pax's Pet Visit Ministry, my dog Emmy and I are proud to be one of the nine pet teams who visit Dungarvin Homes, Friendship Village, Brookdale Memory Care, or Grace Hospice, visiting up to 20 residents at a time.

Twice a week Emmy gets dolled up. Her coat gets shampooed and brushed, and her face, ears, and paws cleaned with puppy wipes. She knows the words 'go to work' and that my bag is full of treats for her. When her Pax Pets red bandanna gets tied around her neck, she is ready to go.

Before we started our visits, I shadowed some of the other teams to learn the routine. Each dog has a special gift to give. Cheryl's dog Wilson has his favorite people he is eager to visit. Tammy's dog Elsie sits on people's feet, leans her back against their legs, and throws her head up for loving. Imagine how nice that feels to people who don't get many touches. Jennifer's dog Bella has a coat of pure silk to pet and likes to watch television in between visits, giving everybody a laugh. Even residents who are slightly afraid of dogs or don't have the mobility to pet her feel they get a visit when my Emmy sits quietly, maintaining intense eye contact with her golden eyes.

While the residents we see blossom from our visits, I learn about the resiliency of people and to deeply respect each one I meet, treating them with the dignity they deserve no matter where they are on life's journey. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined a more rewarding ministry. *Written by Mickey McGrath, Pax Christi parishioner. Mickey and her dog, Emmy are shown in photo above.*



EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL. STORIES HAVE POWER. SOME STORIES LULL US INTO COMPLACENCY; OTHERS PARALYZE US AND INERTIA SETS IN, WHILE OTHERS HAVE THE POWER TO IGNITE IN US THE DESIRE TO LIVE MORE FULLY.



## JOURNEYING FAR TO OPEN WIDE THE DOORS

**AS CHRISTIANS** we want to share our stories because these stories are a living witness to the Gospel. How can we dare not share such marvelous news that Our Lord is King, and we are His living temples of the Holy Spirit?

This very same Holy Spirit is drawing people from places near and far to worship together and to illustrate this faith by service. We're a diverse group of believers with many stories. If you doubt this, then please come check out the bulletin board world map display titled 'The Many Faces of Pax Christi' that was created by Mary Lanners and Mary Skenzich, members of the Worship Council. Pictures were taken during the opening of Faith Formation and Pancakes with Padre events.

The project got off the ground with help from parishioner Molly Koivumaki, who works for the City of Eden Prairie as the Manager of Housing and Community Services. She assists ethnic families and helps them become more connected and engaged in the community at large.

Shamala Brandt, who grew up in Singapore, was a great resource in helping with this project. Her husband, Benjamin, is from Minnesota. They met through a Catholic website almost 11 years ago while Shamala still lived in Singapore. They and their two children, Gabriel and Miriam, have been at Pax Christi since 2012.

The Pauly family, Joby and Lekha, originated in India. They're also sharing their witness in many ways. Joby is on the Finance Council and loves being a lector; Lekha enjoys singing in the choir. They have two sons. Their son, Noah, is beginning to share his story, too. While admiring the display map, he pointed out that he was not born in India. "I was born in Mississippi!"

Steve and Yanmei Anderson came together from Minnesota and Beijing, China. Yanmei tells how her prayer was answered after doctors had told them they would never have children. Yanmei and their daughter Zoe were both baptized at Pax Christi six years ago. Because of her faith, Yanmei's sister in China has now become a Christian.

As we come to worship together, it's amazing to think how many miles some have journeyed. But whether we originate five miles or 5,000 miles from here, we know that the door is open, and we are all welcomed as daughters and sons in the Kingdom, the Church. *Written by Liz Georgioff, Pax Christi parishioner.*





## MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND PAX CHRISTI'S 2016 CANA DINNER OPENING WIDE THE DOORS TO ALL COUPLES!

**THE ANNUAL CANA DINNER** is a special evening to celebrate love through the ages. As we embrace our community-wide theme of opening wide the doors, this year's dinner will honor all couples of all ages.

This much-anticipated event is Saturday, February 6, 6:15 – 9:30pm, at Pax Christi. A hosted wine reception kicks off the festivities, followed by a catered Italian dinner. After dinner, listen to live jazz music from the J&S Trio as you mingle over coffee, wine, and dessert.

Tickets are \$75.00 per couple and include the wine reception, Amore' themed Italian dinner, dessert, live jazz, and the ever-popular couples or group photo. By making reservations, loving childcare at the nursery is also included.

Many couples make this an annual tradition. If you've never attended the Cana Dinner, make 2016 the year you do. Register soon. This popular event usually sells out.

Registration is available at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration). For additional information contact Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, 952-405-7220, or [mkennedy@paxchristi.com](mailto:mkennedy@paxchristi.com).



## MILLENNIALS!

**HELLO AGAIN, MILLENNIALS!** A few of you asked why we are calling on millennials and why we call you that. As our sign tells us, *All are Welcome* at Pax Christi, and this is the Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has called. Pax Christi community leaders and staff began a discussion of ways to welcome, learn from, and include everyone in our Pax Christi community. We began reading published articles and letters about millennials and the church, and while we know that all 18–34 year olds have individual and unique characteristics, we know that most of you grew up in the initial age of the high tech world. We wondered which ways were most desirable or best ways to connect with you. These discussions led to the realization that we needed to ask and connect with our millennial Pax Christi members, singles, couples, and families.

While we are still gathering information from the discussions and survey, we at Pax Christi want to say **A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who came to the November 22 millennial gathering and/or for taking your time to share your insights by responding to the online questionnaire. We feel that you gave us some good thoughts and insights from which we can continue this journey together. We are glad you are here!

Stay tuned for more information in the next issues of the PaxChristiNews. If anyone has additional thoughts who didn't have an opportunity to complete the questionnaire, please feel welcome to contact Donna Kasbohm, [dkasbohm@paxchristi.com](mailto:dkasbohm@paxchristi.com). *Written by Donna Ricco, Pax Christi parishioner.*





# RESOLVE TO OPEN WIDE THE DOORS

**JANUARY.** A new year. A clean slate. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, and now is an opportunity to start fresh in the cold and dark of the dawn of a new year. Did you make any resolutions for this new year? Will you approach this new year differently than you did in years past?

Where were you 35 years ago? 1981 was the year 3M's Post-it Notes first hit the market, and 52 American hostages were finally freed from Iran after being held for 444 days. This is the year the term "internet" was first heard while Microsoft released MS-DOS that could be used on Radio Shack's Tandy TRS80-PC1, as in their first portable computer. So much has changed in 35 years. Another institution that was born 35 years ago this year is Pax Christi Catholic Community. Yes, in June of 1981, Pax Christi celebrated its first Mass.

When did you first cross the threshold of Pax Christi? Were you here in the early years, a.k.a. the Warehouse Days, or are you a more recent member of this community? Over the years, many have come through one of the doors seeking sanctuary, looking for welcome, for sacrament or worship, formation, or companionship. Some came and went; many more stayed to form a dynamic community of faith. In 35 years, literally thousands of souls have come to Pax Christi, and most of you have helped **open wide the doors** in welcome. You have welcomed family members, neighbors, friends, and guests to laugh, cry, pray, and join us all. How appropriate that we celebrate

this theme of **Open Wide the Doors** for our 35th anniversary year. In this time of New Year resolutions, how can you welcome more to join us in worship or in your favorite ministry? Perhaps you are called to go out the doors of Pax Christi and be the hands and feet of Christ in the greater community. Either inside or outside of Pax Christi we call on you, our community, to help us **Open Wide the Doors** in celebration of this powerful community. Opportunities to celebrate with this community abound in the upcoming year. Here are three for you to consider:

- Mark your calendar for the **Winter Warmer Family Fun Potluck Night** on Saturday, January 23. Bring your favorite pot of soup or chili or bring a can of soup for the food shelf, and we'll chase the winter chills away with food and fun – potluck style. We'll have some zany prizes for the super-fun bingo games. It's a night of fun for all.
- There's a great opportunity to learn about your strengths by taking a **Living Your Strengths** course starting January 7. Over 950 members have taken this eye-opening class in a comfortable small group environment, and it's still a bargain at \$17.00. Register online today.
- The **Cana Dinner** welcomes all committed couples to an evening of Amore' with a catered dinner, wine, and jazz music on Saturday, February 6. Register for \$75.00/couple online at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration).

*Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.*





## ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

**THE JUSTICE COUNCIL** is forming a new committee that will focus on Advocacy for Justice. This committee would help to organize Pax Christi members to advocate at the legislative and government level, by finding out what legislation is being proposed, organizing drives to contact legislators, and generally to help make sure that the voice of the poor is heard at government. It could be targeted at federal, state, and local levels. We want to focus on making systemic changes for Justice.

If you are interested in participating (it's open to anyone), or just want to find out more, please contact Tom Scheller, [tom.scheller.ch@gmail.com](mailto:tom.scheller.ch@gmail.com). Also, to stay up to date on Pax Christi Justice events, news, drives, etc., signup to receive our "Justice eNEWS" at the link on the bulletin webpage, [www.paxchristi.com/bulletin](http://www.paxchristi.com/bulletin).



# CHARITY GIVES, BUT JUSTICE CHANGES

*So where do you go from here? How are you answering Pope Francis' call to make a "revolution of tenderness"?*

**BY NOW**, some of the videos on the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teachings have been shown. You have had the opportunity to see them again on the Pax Christi website ([www.paxchristi.com/cst](http://www.paxchristi.com/cst)). We have highlighted, both in the videos and in the handouts, engagement opportunities available to you. People will be at tables to talk with you about ways for you to become involved in the ministries of Pax Christi, in the activities of the Pax Christi Justice Grant recipient organizations, and in the new Justice Council Advocacy Committee.

For the month of January, following all Masses, we will be carrying this information forward in various formats in the Martin Luther King, Jr. room and we hope you will stop by. Additional handouts will be available in case you misplaced yours. There will be representatives from various ministries available to speak with you about what

they are doing and explain the opportunities available for you to dip your toes in the waters of their ministries, to find what answers their needs and feeds your soul. We will be featuring some very special artwork by parishioner Mollie Paulson, a reflection of her deep-rooted commitment to social justice issues. Additional details on page 15.

I hope that this saturation of information surrounding the Seven Principles has called you into a self-examination of how you are living out your faith, how you might mesh these activities with your own life, how to empower yourself to "be the change you want to see."

Thank you so much for being attentive to our videos and presentations on Saturdays and Sundays. Charity and Justice call out to you all week long! *Written by Marcia Kladek, Co-Chair of Justice Council*





# THE LORD HEARS THE CRY OF THE POOR

Featured in January in the Martin Luther King, Jr. room will be an extension of the Catholic Social Teachings. Throughout the month of January, stop by to see the paintings by Mollie Paulson, inspired by her volunteer work with Sharing and Caring Hands. Mollie is a Pax Christi parishioner who has an icon already installed in our chapel. Various ministries will be hosting tables on different weeks, with information and opportunities for you to extend your personal commitment to spreading their message and working toward social justice here in our community. This art exhibit and the words of Pope Francis will inspire and challenge us to fulfill the needs of the poor.



Painting by Mollie Paulson entitled *Woman and Child*.



Painting by Mollie Paulson entitled *Finding Clothes*.





# READINGS FOR JANUARY

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2016

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6/Ps 2:7-8, 10-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2016

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/  
 Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22  
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10/Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2016

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11  
 Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mk 2:18-22  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/Mk 3:7-12  
 Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11/Mk 3:13-19  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2016

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8-10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or  
 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
 Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18  
 Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-8, 10/Mk 3:31-35  
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-30/Mk 4:1-20  
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-5, 11-14/Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-17/Mk 4:35-41

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2016

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-6, 15-17/1 Cor 12:31--13:13 or  
 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30  
 Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-7/Mk 5:1-20  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 6:1-6  
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10-12/Mk 6:7-13  
 Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51/Mk 6:14-29  
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9-14/Mk 6:30-34

# PARISHIONER NEWS

## NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

Norah Lee Halvorsen	11/1/2015
Ottilie Anne Wiederholt	11/1/2015
Stella Rose Grady	11/8/2015
Sawyer Lee Falencykowski	11/8/2015
Noah Del Monaco Pinto	11/8/2015
Jackson Lee Tibbetts	11/8/2015
Avery Grace Dill	11/15/2015
Aiden Jeffrey Rawlings	11/15/2015
Henry Michael TenEyck	11/15/2015
Amelia Dorothy Paolozzi Bannach	11/28/2015
Hazel Jeanette Bellmont	11/29/2015
Emily Mae Bissonette	11/29/2015
Sabrina Rose Kostecka	11/29/2015
Gunnar Matthew Kukla	11/29/2015
Nora Lillian Sandstrom	11/29/2015

## NOVEMBER FUNERALS

Michael J. Wilwerding	11/9/2015
Joseph O'Connell Cure	11/14/2015
Joan Budd	11/19/2015
David Sorenson	11/21/2015
Keith Thompson	11/30/2015

## NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Blasy  
 Kieth Carlson and Lori LeBlanc  
 Tierra Daniels  
 John and Judy Daugherty  
 Mark and Kathleen Fisher  
 Diane and Jerry Hansen  
 Jesse and Dana Hendricks  
 Joan Monahan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bud Moss  
 John and Teresa Pratten  
 Jeffrey and Diane Rawlings  
 Neal and Jane Steffl  
 Katy Thompson





## JANUARY

### WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BIBLE STUDY SECOND SEMESTER

**Beginning Tuesday, January 5–March 22, 9:30–11:30am **RSVP****

If you were unable to start this series in the fall, you are welcome to join for the second half. It has been a very illuminating and fruitful study of the historical books of the Old Testament. Our presenters all specialize in the area that they are presenting and are truly enlightening. Dr. Kelly Wilson, University of St. Thomas, will teach Samuel 1 and 2 of Hebrew Scripture. Dr. David Penchansky, University of St. Thomas, will cover Kings I and II of Hebrew Scripture. The program includes two morning retreats: one by Dr. Michael Chan, Luther Seminary, and another by Fr. Michael Patella, St. John's University School of Theology and Seminary. Tuition is \$60 and includes the book, all presentations, and two morning retreats.

### NAME TAG WEEKEND

**January 9/10 – Second FULL weekend of each month**

As you arrive for Mass, greeters will be available to assist in the process. This is one of the Worship Council's efforts towards our goal of engaging members. It is our hope that all who come to Pax Christi to worship will be a part of our outreach to one another in this very large community of faith.

### SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION

**Beginning Thursday, January 14, 5:30–7:30pm**

**Hosted by St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie**

The Southwest Grief Coalition is a partnership of five local churches working together to provide support and education for those who are grieving. A seven-week winter series, *Living and Growing Through Loss*, will begin on Thursday, January 14, hosted by St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. The evening will include a light meal, followed by speaker, and then small group supportive sessions specific to your type of loss. If you or someone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one, you are invited to participate. There is no cost to attend. For more information visit [www.paxchristi.com/bereavementministry](http://www.paxchristi.com/bereavementministry) or contact Jean Thoresen, 952-405-7211, or Mary Ann Callahan, 952-405-7227.

### PAX CHRISTI'S +55 GROUP SUNDAY BRUNCH

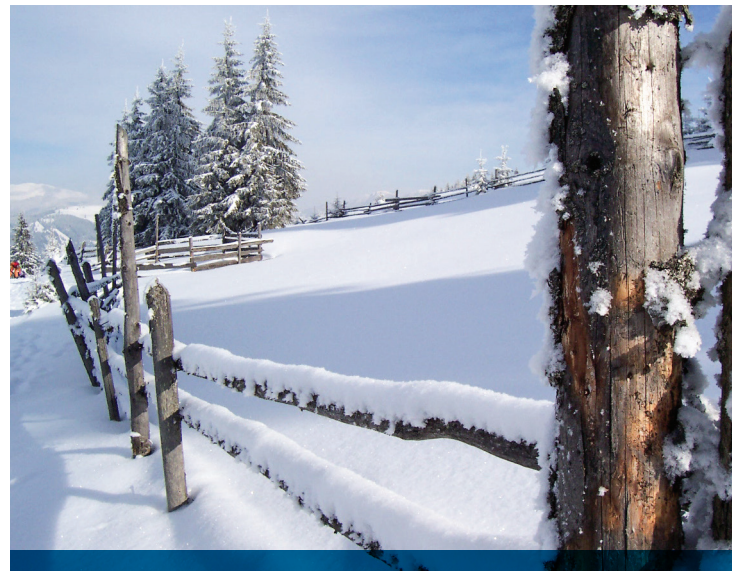
**Sunday, January 17, 11:00am, WILDFIRE **RSVP****

Are you a 55+ single? Join other area singles for food and fun. This month's site is Wildfire, 8251 Flying Cloud Dr, Eden Prairie. RSVP by Wednesday, January 13, to Mary Ellen, 952-942-0178.

### YEAR OF ENCOUNTER WITH POPE FRANCIS

**Thursday, January 21, 6:30-8:30pm, Room #247 **RSVP****

A successful fall session of the Year of Encounter series has inspired us to again offer this program. This six-week series addresses issues of poverty, racism, immigration, and other justice related concerns. In his writing and pastoral visits, Pope Francis invites us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus: to include or "encounter" one another, especially those of us that society typically ignores, undervalues, or excludes. The Holy Father then invites us to take the next step: from seeing all people as part of God's family to acting together to bring about a world that respects everyone's dignity. The group will journey together for six weeks of reflection, group sharing, and then create personal action steps. Childcare will be provided, but please notify us in advance. Class fills quickly, so please register online or contact Jean Thoresen, 952-405-7211.



## A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com) for additional information and details. If an event indicates **RSVP**, you may register/signup online at [www.paxchristi.com/event-registration](http://www.paxchristi.com/event-registration). Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.



## A NEW LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS JOURNEY STARTS SOON

*I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. –John 17:4*

Are you a list maker? Do you yearn for that sense of accomplishment and that warm, fuzzy glow you get when you can check off a completed task? If so, perhaps you have the Achiever strength, one of the strengths identified by the Clifton Strengthsfinder in the Living Your Strengths book by the Gallup Institute. If you are the type who prefers to “go with the flow” and enjoys the fact that every day is different, then Adaptability may be one of your strengths. Perhaps you are one who can be counted on to make sure that everyone you encounter is treated equitably. If so, Consistency could be a dominant theme for you. These are just three of the 34 strengths identified in the Strengthsfinder Online Assessment. Whatever your top strengths are, each of us is unique, and the strengths God has blessed you with can help you in your career, your relationships, and your faith journey.

Perhaps it's time for you to find out what talents/strengths you bring to the table. To date, over 950 members of the Pax Christi community have taken the Living Your Strengths assessment and continue on their strengths journey.

The small group sessions run for six weeks. The next class will start **Thursday, January 7, 6:30–8:00pm, and class continues January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, and 11.**

The cost for participation in the Living Your Strengths Seminar is \$17.00. Participants will receive a copy of the Living Your Strengths book, a journal, and an online talent assessment code. Each group works with one of our certified facilitators in a small group environment to learn about strengths and how we can harness our strengths to be the person God calls us to be.

**To register, please contact Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, [mkennedy@paxchristi.com](mailto:mkennedy@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7220.**

## SR HIGH YOUTH: LUTSEN MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP

**January 22–24, 2016, Lutsen Mountain, MN, \$230 **RSVP****

Two days of skiing/snowboarding at Lutsen Mountain with your friends — what could be better!? We'll pack up the vans and head up to Lutsen for a beautiful weekend on the mountain. Spend your days exploring the 92 runs and 1,000 skiable acres. Our group will depart Immanuel Lutheran Church at 4:30pm on Friday and return at approximately 6:30pm on Sunday. We will be staying at the Lake Superior Hostel, located in Tofte. Included in the cost is two nights lodging, two-day lift pass, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, and Saturday dinner as well as lunch on the hill Saturday and Sunday (sloppy joes, fruit, and chips), and transportation. Extras: Friday supper on the road, Sunday supper on the road and ski/snowboard rental. Questions? Contact Peter Bierer, [pbierer@paxchristi.com](mailto:pbierer@paxchristi.com), or 952-405-7210.

## WINTER WARMER FAMILY FUN POTLUCK NIGHT

**Saturday, January 23, 6:00–8:30pm**

Bingo! Yes, we have a winner!

How could a person not have fun at an event called the Winter Warmer Family Fun Potluck Night? The name says it all! What better way to heat up community life in the cold of January than to bring together all ages to join in on a warm and tasty potluck meal of homemade chili and soup. This fun evening will be hosted by the Welcoming Ministry, the Boomers and Beyond group, and the Stewardship Council. Bring your family, your friends, and join in this evening of community fun!

Share a pot of your favorite soup or chili, whether it's exotic and spicy, or more towards Minnesota mild and nice. If it's a favorite recipe of yours, bring it on! The hosts will make sure there's plenty of “fixings” to go with the soup and chili – no one will go home hungry!

If you aren't able to bring a dish to share, the donation of a can of soup that we'll send on to the PROP food shelf is all the entry needed for the evening. We'll get the popcorn popping, and the Hall of Martyrs will be hopping as people enjoy the flavor and fun of the evening. After we fill up on chili and soup, we'll move on to the bingo games. Whether or not you get to yell “BINGO,” all will surely go home as winners!





## MAKE PLANS NOW

### ANNUAL CANA DINNER

**Saturday, February 6, 6:00pm** **RSVP**

Complete details on page 12.

### BOOMERS AND BEYOND: COMPASSIONATE CAREGIVING

**Thursday, February 11, 1:00-3:00pm, Room #211** **RSVP**

This presentation will cover things you need to know to prepare to become a caregiver, including how your role can change. A second speaker will also share information on hospice services. Join us for this Boomers' sponsored event to hear two speakers share their knowledge and supply information for when these situations enter your life. There is no fee for this event. Reserve your spot for this event by calling 952-405-7251 or visit [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration). Please RSVP by Monday, February 8.

### EARTH DAY RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, April 23, 8:30am–2:30pm**

We are challenged to hear the “cry of the poor” and the “cry of the earth” at the same time. We are formed in the image and likeness of the Creator God and are interdependent with all of creation and the environment. Pope Francis calls us to “accept the urgency. [I]t seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our future generations.” He connects environmentalism with social justice by emphasizing how disproportionately the poor are affected by climate change. He asks us, “What kind of world do you want to leave your children?”

The day will include prayer, reflection, keynote speaker Fr. Larry Snyder, Vice President for Mission at University of St. Thomas and past president of Catholic Charities USA, plus a panel of experts, breakout sessions, and suggestions for action plans (personal and communal). Additional information at [www.paxchristi.com/earthday](http://www.paxchristi.com/earthday).

### SCOTLAND IRELAND TOUR WITH FR BILL MURTAUGH

**June 13-23, 2016** **RSVP**

Immerse yourself in the beauty, the history, and the many sites in these two special countries. Be one of those going. Space is limited! To learn more about this special pilgrimage, please contact Magi Travel, 952-949-0065, with questions.



### ITALY: THE LAND OF THE SAINTS WITH FR HERB HAYEK

**October 25–November 4, 2016** **RSVP**

Join Fr. Herb Hayek as he travels to Italy, The Land of the Saints: Francis and Dominic, Clare, and Catherine. Celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Dominic in Bologna. Visit the basilicas constructed by the Dominicans in Florence. Enjoy a tour of Siena and visit the home and sanctuary of St. Catherine. Travel to Assisi, the magical town of St. Francis and St. Clare, built on pink stone on the slopes of Mount Subasio. Complete your journey with three days in Rome, the “Eternal City.” To learn more about this special pilgrimage, visit [magitravelinc.com](http://magitravelinc.com), click Italy, and then click the Learn More button below the trip dates. You may view the daily itinerary, hotel accommodations, pricing, and more. You may also register online. Please contact Magi Travel, 952-949-0065, with any questions.

# JANUARY

See pages 18-19 for details  
or visit us online at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 WOMEN WITH SPIRIT	6	7 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS	8	9 MARRIAGE RETREAT NAME TAG WEEKEND
10 NAME TAG WEEKEND	11	12 WOMEN WITH SPIRIT	13	14 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS SOUTHWEST GRIEF	15	16 CONFIRMATION RETREAT WEEKEND
17 55+ BRUNCH	18	19 WOMEN WITH SPIRIT LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	20 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	21 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS SOUTHWEST GRIEF YEAR OF ENCOUNTER	22 SR HIGH LUTSEN TRIP	23 WINTER WARMER
24 FAITH FORMATION	25	26 WOMEN WITH SPIRIT	27 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	28 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS SOUTHWEST GRIEF YEAR OF ENCOUNTER	29	30
31 FAITH FORMATION	1	2 WOMEN WITH SPIRIT	3 FAITH FORMATION RCIA	4 LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS SOUTHWEST GRIEF YEAR OF ENCOUNTER	5 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL	6 CANA DINNER







**PAX CHRISTI CONTACTS**

**PASTOR**

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

**SR ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTACT**

Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P. 952-405-7219

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# Earth Day

## Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home

**Fr. Larry Snyder**



Vice President  
 for Mission at  
 University of  
 St. Thomas and  
 past president  
 of Catholic  
 Charities USA

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016, 8:30AM-2:30PM**

Celebrate Earth Day on April 23, 2016 at Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie. The day will include keynote speaker Fr. Larry Snyder, Vice President for Mission at University of St. Thomas and past president of Catholic Charities USA, and a panel of experts, with breakout sessions. Join your friends and neighbors as we learn together how to care for the earth, our common home. Registration details online February 1. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

[www.paxchristi.com/earthday](http://www.paxchristi.com/earthday)



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