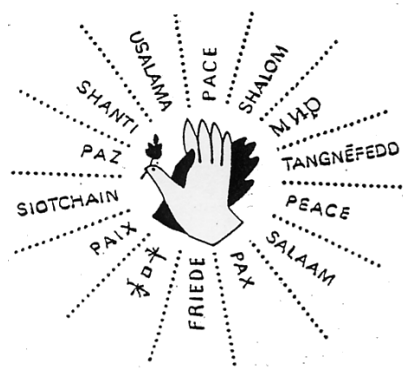


Pax Christi Volunteering Opportunities in 2009



One way to explore how peacemaking works is to join with others working on a common project! Pax Christi sections and partners in other parts of the world offer opportunities for volunteering and participating in work-camp projects. Here are some for you to explore.

Apart from the work camp in Italy it is best to make direct contact with the country planning the programme - but do let us know if you manage to find an opportunity that suits you - and let us know how you get on.

For younger adults

8-19 August 2009 International work camp - Florence, Italy

Pax Christi summer work camp in Italy, 9-18 August 2009 - for 18-30 year olds. Join 25 other young people at the beautiful Pax Christi Italy, Peace House (Casa per la Pace) for 10 days of practical work, sharing, workshops and fun. Download information here

<http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/YoungPeacemakers.html>



For all ages

Opportunities in Bethlehem.

From late June to early July the Arab Educational Institute, a Pax Christi partner in Bethlehem runs a summer school. Volunteers with skills in arts, crafts, music, sports or any other creative activity particularly welcome. Download more information here

<http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/YoungPeacemakers.html>



Opportunities in Lourdes

Pax Christi France, Peace Pavilion in Lourdes seeks volunteers to help keep the Peace Pavilion open during the summer months - offering hospitality and facilitating times peace activities and times of prayer when appropriate.

Contacts: Jacques et Françoise Boneu, Les Rocailles, 65710 CAMPAN, tél. 05 62 91 74 67, or email francoise.boneu@libertysurf.fr and

http://paxchristi.cef.fr/section.php?section=02_06

Read how Pax Christi UK members experienced the global village - in Lourdes 2008!

Last summer five members of Pax Christi British Section went to volunteer in the Pax Christi Peace Pavillion in Lourdes. We invited two of the volunteers, Sr Eileen McGrath and Anthea Fairey to share something of their experience with us. They give a great flavour of what happened in Lourdes and of the scope and breadth of peacemaking by encounter and dialogue

First Anthea: *I had a really good time in Lourdes. Good time isn't really the right phrase but I don't know how else to phrase it. Helen and I worked with Francoise from Lille and I think we made a good team, well balanced. Helen's French was good, Francoise was of course a native speaker and my French was/is minimal but my goodness me it did improve!!... On the Monday we were told that there would be 15, 12-15 year old visiting from the Limoge diocese for 1 hour. Helen and I frantically planned an hour's worth of activities - they stayed for 2 and a half hours!! Mr Martin came at the same time so he talked to them and they did a quiz produced by PC France, which they found interesting. We got them to make a wall of tiles where they each wrote what peace meant to them. We also got each of them to write a personal prayer for peace. I put them on the altar in the PC chapel whilst we said prayers the next day and then brought them back to the house mounted then on card and we have left them there. And from Sr Eileen : 15th August, feast of the Assumption. The Cardinal of Paris came to Lourdes to concelebrate the Mass as it was the National French Pilgrimage. There were thousands in the large park at the other side of the grotto. We attended this open air Mass. Two sisters from Central Africa drop in for information about something else but I invite them to sit down and write something about Peace. This is what they wrote:*

No to violence. No to war. No to genocide. No to racism.
No to bomb attacks.
Yes to fraternity. Yes to sharing. Yes to humility
I SAY YES TO PEACE. *Jo Kirby age 15*

Peace is something universal. The slogan "Peace and Love" is not a slogan for fun but it means the love we have for others.
Iwada age 12

We put them on the wall. They are wonderful... Our last evening we attended a conference entitled "Peace in the great lakes of Africa". Burundi, Congo, Rwanda. A priest called Father Gaston from Goma spoke as a member of Pax Christi who suffered in Rwanda. The room was packed and the Bishop of Lourdes attended with a wonderful French priest who lives in the City Saint Pierre with the homeless and poor people