



## **Press Release**

### **Triennial World Assembly**

**12 – 16 May 2010**

**Strasbourg - France**

**“There are many Rooms in the House of Peace”** was the theme of the Pax Christi International Triennial World Assembly (TWA), which took place in Strasbourg, France, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. Pax Christi France was the host section for this TWA assisted by the regional group of Pax Christi Strasbourg.

The Pax Christi International TWA determines common priorities and objectives of the movement, works out common action programmes for all Member Organisations, selects themes for study and action. The TWA meets every three years in different locations across the world.

About 100 delegates from different member organisations worldwide and more than 40 different countries, attended the TWA. Participants reflected on the vision and mission of Pax Christi International, on the global concerns and discussed and agreed on a renewed/revised strategic framework for 2011 - 2013.

At this Assembly Pax Christi International welcomed Bishop Kevin Dowling (South Africa) and Marie Dennis (USA) as the new Presidents of the movement. Their 3-year mandate as co-presidents begins with this TWA.

A special word of welcome was given to the new members of the Executive Committee: Mustafa Ali (Kenya), Christina Calvo (Argentina), Sr. Filo Hirota (Japan), Anna Moskwa (Poland), Jan Peters SJ (Netherlands), and Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler (Germany).

The following members who have been elected for a second mandate of three years are: Jef Felix (Belgium), Maria Luisa Francisco (Portugal), Katarina Kruhonja (Croatia), Kevin McBride (Aotearoa/New Zealand), Hanna Nassif (Lebanon), Martha Inés Romero (Colombia), Msgr. Marc Stenger (France).

A word of thanks was addressed to the outgoing members of the ExCom in particular the outgoing Co-President, Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo (DR Congo) and Loreta

Castro (Philippines), Laura Vargas (Peru), Hans Kruijssen (the Netherlands) and Georg Hörnschemeyer (Germany).



At the Assembly, Pax Christi Peru was accepted as a new Pax Christi section, the first Pax Christi section in South America. The Centro Dominicano de Asesoría e Investigaciones Legales (CEDAIL), Dominican Republic; and the Centro Fray Bartolomé de las Casas in Chiapas (México) were accepted as new member organisations. Catholics for Peace has been accepted as Pax Christi Toronto and Antennes de Paix as Pax Christi Montréal.

This TWA reflected upon the signs of the times and challenged all participants to explore innovative ways and approaches to peace building leading towards action models at a global or regional level

Six particular concerns were identified and explored: Human Migration Resulting from Conflict; Youth Violence and Civil Unrest; Climate Change, Violence and Climate Refugees; Nuclear Disarmament; Impunity, Transitional Justice and Truth Commissions; Religion and Violent Radicalisation.

At the TWA, delegates were invited to reflect upon the articulation of a common theology and spirituality of peace. "There is no way to peace, peace is the way – Our life is a journey in peace – a peacemaking journey" is the title of an ongoing project of Pax Christi International which will be implemented at a grassroots level around the world.

On 15 May, delegates participated in the pilgrimage of reconciliation to the Peace Cross of Bühl in Germany. The "Bühler Kreuz" is a monument to French - German reconciliation after World, War II. In Bühl, Pax Christi International celebrated its mission as an international movement for reconciliation, justice and peace.

Special focus was given to youth delegates who met in parallel conference in a youth seminar to enter in a dialogue process with European policy makers on the question of military spending versus development. 30 youth delegates came from different European countries to attend.

Strasbourg, 16 May 2010.