

Just War or Just Peace? No matter how you read it, we live in a world that is torn between the two. We all say we want peace, but we can't seem to agree on how to achieve it. We've heard that "war is hell," but we keep waging it. Religious faiths add another dimension to the dilemma. They preach peace, but often condone violence, even going so far as to provide a "Just War Theory." How are young people to make any sense of the contradictions?

Just War/Just Peace is an eight-lesson program for high school students that provides numerous opportunities for young people to explore relevant issues and critically analyze them. It is rooted in the teachings on peace and war found in many religious faiths. It uses diverse instructional strategies, including internet research, reading, discussion, moral dilemmas, simulations, and creative expression. It does not take a stand, but encourages students to come to their own informed positions on such topics as patriotism and responsible citizenship, faith and service. Its most basic and important goals are the cultivation of critical thinking and the

deepening of faith to guide decision making and moral development in a world of difficult choices and endless contradictions.

The Inspiration for *Just War/Just Peace*

Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY), a regional chapter of the international Catholic peace movement, has been providing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution for many years. One of our conflict resolution programs, *From Conflict to Common Ground: A Christian Conflict Resolution Process for Catholic High Schools*, is, as the title states, directed to high school students. When talking with high school administrators, counselors, and teachers about *Common Ground*, we learned of a desire for something that would go beyond interpersonal conflict resolution. There was a desire for a program that would serve the diversity of faiths more and more present in Catholic schools. There was also an interest in more materials that would address current social and economic issues from a faith perspective. In this time of war and other armed conflicts, with high school students being recruited for military service, a third concern was students' ability to make informed decisions. *Just War/Just Peace* is PCMNY's response to the desire, the interest, and the concern. We trust you will find it fills some of your needs.



Program Outline

Lesson 1: *Faith Perspectives on War and Peace*—an exploration of the teachings of diverse faiths on war and peace. This lesson is the reference point for all those that follow. In each lesson, the tie that binds is the basic question: How does the topic at hand relate to what our faiths teach us?

Lesson 2: *Setting Budgetary Priorities for War and Peace*—an examination of the U.S. federal budget and an opportunity to create one's own

Lessons 3 & 4: *The Roles of Patriotism and Citizenship in War and Peace*—consideration of what patriotism and responsible citizenship are and how they are lived out in our daily lives

Lesson 5: *Service for War, Service for Peace*—a study of the armed services and other forms of service, their purposes, and their appeals

Lesson 6: *The Impact of War*—an investigation of the societal effects of war in terms of costs and benefits

Lesson 7: *Seeking Alternatives*—an introduction to nonviolent

strategies offered as alternatives to war and an analysis of their effectiveness

Lesson 8: *Taking Action*—an invitation to apply selected methods to real problems

More about Pax Christi

Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY) has been active in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn since 1983. As one of the most active regions of Pax Christi USA, PCMNY works to educate the Catholic community about issues of peace and justice in the context of Catholic social teaching. The organization is strongly committed to principles of nonviolence and seeks to move Catholics and their communities toward deeper integration of nonviolence into their daily lives action.

The means by which Pax Christi strives to achieve its goals are prayer, study, and action.

Our prayer includes a Good Friday Way of the Cross across Manhattan in which we commemorate Jesus' suffering in the world today and an annual retreat.

Our study includes our conflict resolution programs, a program on forgiveness, study guides for school field trips to New York City sites that deal with war, diplomacy, and cross-cultural contacts, and this program.

Our actions include public vigils, prayer walks, and participation with other peace organizations at rallies and demonstrations.

Contact us for more information.

Order Form

The eight-lesson *Just War/Just Peace* manual is available for \$20 plus \$4 shipping and handling. If you would like a copy, please complete the order form below and return it with your check made payable to Pax Christi Metro New York.

Thank you!

I am interested in receiving _____ (number) copy/ies of *Just War/Just Peace*. Please send to the name and address below. Payment is enclosed.

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return to:

Pax Christi Metro New York
371 Sixth Avenue

Just War/Just Peace



**A Program Developed by
Pax Christi Metro New
York
for High School Students**