

October, 2016

Dear Educator:

I am writing to invite and encourage you to

Nominate a Young Peacebuilder for 2017!

Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY), a regional chapter of the international Catholic peace movement, is pleased to invite you to help us celebrate the good work of young people who are making their world a better, more peaceful place. In the Spring of 2013, PCMNY was the recipient of a donation specifically designed to enable us to recognize the peacebuilding efforts of students of high school age. The award is named after and inspired by the peacebuilding work of the Maloof family. You can read their story as told by the teenage son, David, at <http://bustedhalo.com/features/finding-god-in-a-palestinian-refugee-camp>.

While David's experience was international, the Maloof Family Peacebuilder Award is open to a wide range of peacebuilding activities at home or abroad. We believe that there are many young people who are engaged in excellent work to promote peace and who do so, at least in part, because of their faith. We also believe that their good work often goes unrecognized. We want to take this opportunity to correct that oversight and to encourage even more peacebuilding efforts.

You are receiving this invitation because we understand that you are the most appropriate person to make an informed nomination. If you do not feel you are the best person to make a nomination, please pass this letter onto the person you think would be best, or if you would like to consult with someone else, please do so. Whoever makes the nomination, we encourage him or her to nominate a student who exemplifies peacebuilding in his or her life. We do ask only one nomination per high school or parish.

The Maloof Family Young Peacebuilder will receive a \$250 prize, along with a Certificate. We will also award Certificates of Commendation to two additional young people.

The date and venue for the award presentations in 2017 are not yet confirmed, but we are hoping for Sunday afternoon inmid-to-late May or early June in a convenient location in Manhattan. We will ask the award winner to speak briefly about his or her peacebuilding efforts. With the winner's permission, we will also post his/her essay on our website and offer it to *Catholic New York* and *The Tablet* for publication.

Specific nomination information and last year's winning essay are attached. Nomination information will also be available on the PCMNY website, www.nypaxchristi.org, shortly. We will be communicating as much as possible via e-mail. The PCMNY e-mail address is info@nypaxchristi.org.

In peace,

Rosemarie Pace, Ed.D.
Director, Pax Christi Metro New York

Guidelines for the Maloof Family Young Peacebuilders Award 2017

1. The nominee must be a student in good standing at a Catholic high school in the Pax Christi Metro New York region which comprises the Archdiocese of New York and the Brooklyn Diocese. The nominee may also be a high school student in a parish Youth Ministry program within the PCMNY region.
2. The Maloof Young Peacebuilder Awards are designed to encourage young people to promote peace in practical and faith-filled ways; therefore:
 - a) Students should be recommended for their activities promoting peace, building an atmosphere of peace, creating a process to build peace where conflict occurs or to prevent potential conflict, or similar actions. Such activities may include conflict resolution, mediation, or practical work on an issue such as gun violence, bullying or an international situation. They may also contribute to peace through service projects. We recognize that much conflict arises due to poverty, hunger, homelessness, and other forms of injustice. We know that peace can be built in a variety of ways including sports, the arts, and compassionate care of those living with deep stress and anxiety.
 - b) Students should also be recommended because they understand the place of faith in their peacebuilding activity.
3. The nominator is asked to submit by e-mail to info@nypaxchristi.org:
 - a) the student's name
 - b) the student's class or grade
 - c) his or her own name
 - d) his or her own e-mail address
 - e) the school name
 - f) the school address
 - g) the school phone number
 - h) a 50-words statement about how the student-nominee exemplifies ***PCMNY's Mission and Vision*** (below) in the activity for which s/he is being nominated, i.e. why is the student being nominated
 - i) the student-nominee's essay described in #4 below.
4. The student-nominee is asked to compose a 500-word essay that describes his or her peacebuilding activity in light of PCMNY's Values (below). Specifically, s/he should explain how his or her activity supports ***any three of PCMNY's values listed in its Values Statement.***
 - a) Spelling and grammar count. The essay will be published to our website.
 - b) Parental approval is required.
5. The deadline for all information listed in #3 above is December 2nd. A reminder will be sent to you via e-mail around November 14th.

We hope you agree that this is a great way to affirm deserving students for their important work for peace and an excellent way to foster more faith-filled endeavors to counter our violence-plagued culture with the youthful energy and creativity that nurture peace. We look forward to receiving your nomination by December 2nd and celebrating our Young Peacebuilder with you.

PAX CHRISTI METRO NEW YORK

Mission Statement

Rooted in Gospel nonviolence and Catholic Social Teaching, Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY) educates and advocates for peace and social justice locally and globally through prayer, study, and action.

Vision Statement

Pax Christi Metro New York envisions our region as a community actively engaged in the work of peacemaking and nonviolence through inter-community and multi-faith collaboration.

Values Statement

- ❖ The centrality of peacemaking to the practice of our Catholic faith
- ❖ Gospel-inspired hope
- ❖ Prayer, active love, and nonviolence as a force for change
- ❖ The interdependence of peace and social justice
- ❖ Solidarity with the most vulnerable in society
- ❖ Personal and communal responsibility for building a peaceful world
- ❖ Right relationship with all creation
- ❖ The benefits of a diverse community