

Asia Pacific Regional Consultation Welcome 2017

Good morning! As co-president of Pax Christi International, I am delighted to welcome you to this extraordinary event. Bishop Kevin Dowling with whom I share the international presidency of Pax Christi, sends his special greetings to each of you. He wanted very much to be here with us and tried until the last moment to come, but it was impossible for him to leave his diocese in Rustenberg, South Africa this week.

Each of you and all of us together are living our way into a more just, peaceful and sustainable future. Even in troubled times, we believe that peace is possible – that how we live and the work to which we have dedicated our lives can make a difference.

In the coming days we will explore together the implications of that belief for the next steps on our individual, communal and organizational journeys. We will get to know each other better, learn more about the work for integral peace in which you are already engaged, reflect on the signs of the times in Asia and the Pacific, discern nonviolent pathways toward sustainable peace in this region, and think together about how each of our organizations and Pax Christi International as a vibrant, diverse, respected, experienced international network can make a positive contribution to integral peace in this critically important part of the world.

As we begin this journey of prayer, study and action, remember to whom we are accountable. I invite you to hold in your heart someone you know who can help us understand what just peace would look like in this region – someone caught in the vise of violence or war or racism or poverty, someone who is a refugee or who is homeless in their own country, someone for whom the impact of environmental destruction or climate change is a matter of life or death.

We will keep all of these “beloveds” to whom Jesus brought good news present with us this week, trying to shape our work for just peace from their perspective. Again, welcome to the Regional Consultation of Pax Christi International’s Asia Pacific Network. May the God of all creation be present with us in these days to bless our common work and strengthen our commitment to a just, nonviolent and sustainable future.