



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
*In Joyful Service*

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Lisa Olson, Director of Public Awareness (605) 229-8528  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FIFTH ANNUAL GROWING PEACE CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL 18**



Aberdeen, S.D. – Bishop Tom Gumbleton, longtime national and international activist in the peace movement and founding bishop president of Pax Christi USA, will be the featured speaker at the fifth annual Growing Peace South Dakota Pax Christi conference.

This event will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Multipurpose Room, 1600 South Marian Road (Entrance F), Sioux Falls, S.D. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. A freewill donation will be collected for the conference fees, and there will be a \$7 charge for lunch. The event is open to the public and all those interested in peace and justice are encouraged to attend.

Bishop Gumbleton will deliver two talks on "Pillar of Justice and Pillar of Peace." An outspoken critic of violence and militarism, he has traveled extensively and spoken internationally on numerous fact-finding and humanitarian missions and often serves as an expert witness. He believes that "each of us is the place where God dwells and we must be a light to our brothers and sisters ... to our world."

A panel presentation on the efforts to create a national Department of Peace will be presented by those who have actively worked to promote this legislation. Howard and Dorothy Barlow, Fargo, N.D., recently participated in the national D.C. Peace Alliance Conference, Peace Within Reach, and will share updates from this event. Mr. Barlow also serves as the North Dakota Coordinator. Fargo Presentation Sister Maris Stella Korb, director of the Presentation Peace and Justice Center, Fargo, N.D., and Watertown Benedictine Sister Teresa Ann Wolf, director of the Benedictine Multicultural Center, Watertown, S.D., will also take part in this panel presentation. Sister Michelle Meyers, LeSueur, Minn., who is a member of Presentation Sisters' Social Justice Team that has also endorsed the Department of Peace, will moderate.

According to Sister Kay O'Neil, chair, Presentation Sisters Social Justice Team, and a coordinator of this event, "Through reflection and dialogue conference participants will renew their calling to be peacemakers, sons and daughters of the God of peace."

This annual conference is sponsored by the Presentation Sisters' Social Justice Team and Pax Christi chapters including: Aberdeen, West River, and Southeastern South Dakota and Estherville, Iowa. Pax Christi USA is a section of Pax Christi International, which is active in more than 30 countries. Members act from a belief they can help create a world that better reflects the "peace of Christ."

For more information, please contact Sister Gabriella Crowley at [gabriellapaz@hotmail.com](mailto:gabriellapaz@hotmail.com) or 605-274-3735, or Sister Kay O'Neil at [sistersmandk@mchsi.com](mailto:sistersmandk@mchsi.com).

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