

Catholic Peace Ministry

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News Brief Feb. 28, 2024

“Two processions entered Jerusalem . . .

One was a peasant procession, the other an imperial procession . . .”

One was led by Jesus on a donkey,

“(The other) led by Pontius Pilate at the head of the imperial cavalry . . .

“(One) proclaimed the kingdom of God; (the other) proclaimed the power of empire. . .”

-*The Last Week* by Marcus Borg & Dominic Crossan



PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION FOR PEACE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

3:00 PROCESSION – Gather at 2:30 in the parking lot of the Corinthian Baptist Church 814 School St. and proceed to St. John’s Lutheran Church, 600 6th Ave.

3:30 SERVICE Keynote by Rev. Christine Cowan (ELCA)



We seek to lift up the true meaning of Palm Sunday:

A challenge to economic & political powers

We will gather to raise our voices in support of justice and peace. The DM Faith Committee for Peace, of which Catholic Peace Ministry is a founding member, has been holding processions and services since 2002 when we marched to promote peace in the wake of US war against Iraq.

“This is a time to lament the terrible losses of war and the national resources spent on warring and preparing for war. It is also a time to be concerned about the mounting call for increased militarization as the solution to conflict at home and abroad.” –DM Faith Committee for Peace



The State of Palestine, Israeli Colonization & Violence, and the Role of the Church Post-October 7th

A Synopsis of Amgad Beblawi's Presentation on February 8th
By Caleb Stewart (CPM Peace Education intern)

A crowd of over 50 people gathered on Thursday, February 8th, at the Des Moines Northwest Community Center to listen to Amgad Beblawi, Ministry and Mission Executive for the Presbytery of Des Moines, discuss the lengthy and arduous history of Palestine, the creation of the state of Israel, the origin of the conflict, and the role of the church throughout the war. The event was organized by CPM.

Mr. Beblawi first discussed the absence of the church in regard to the Holocaust. Finding the church's failure to act in the Holocaust a great travesty and a contributor to the genocide that occurred, Mr. Beblawi argued that the 21st-century role of the church should be one of fostering peace and understanding in an ever-changing and conflictual world. With regards to the present, Mr. Beblawi urged the church to speak out against the injustices and violence we are witnessing in Palestine.

Connecting CPM with its religious roots, Mr. Beblawi then outlined a plan of action for all Christians. As Christians, according to Mr. Beblawi, Jesus compels his followers to not be "neutral" on matters of violence, terrorism, injustice, or oppression and not show partiality in the face of great injustice. Instead, followers of Jesus should be peacemakers, "speak truth to love", and speak on behalf of those who are unable to speak.

After having granted his audience the historical background needed to understand the role of the church in the complex history surrounding Israeli expansion into Palestinian territory, Mr. Beblawi then took a moment to denounce terrorism on all sides. After this denouncement of the anti-peace actions taken by both sides, he then outlined the facts of Israel's "settler colonialism." Defined as "replac[ing] the original group populating an area with another [group]," Mr. Beblawi made the argument that Israel fits this definition of a settler colonialist state, as it supports the over 200+ Israeli settlements and the 700,000+ Israeli settlers that exist within Palestinian territory. Although Mr. Beblawi highlighted that such settlements and settlers are illegal under international law, Mr. Beblawi also claimed that the church's complacency helped foster such settlements.

In the face of such settlements and flagrant violations of international law, Mr. Beblawi then highlighted the Jewish voices actively speaking out against such international law violations

Prominent Jewish & Israeli NGO Voices for Palestine

- [*The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories*](#)
- [*The Israeli Committee Against House Demolition \(ICAHN\)*](#)
- [*Military Court Watch*](#)
- [*Jewish Voice for Peace*](#)
- [*Rabbis for Ceasefire*](#)
- [*Tzedek Chicago*](#)
- [*Tikkun*](#)

occurring in Palestine. Mr. Beblawi outlined that these select groups are actively working for a free Palestine—a Palestine not facing the harsh conditions placed upon them by the state of Israel. A few of these Jewish NGOs are listed in the box on the upper right.

Despite these violations of international law, much of the criticism leveled against Israel is often disregarded as “antisemitism.” However, with the active participation of the pro-Palestinian/pro-ceasefire Jewish groups, this critique of the pro-Palestine movement holds little water—Mr. Beblawi noted.

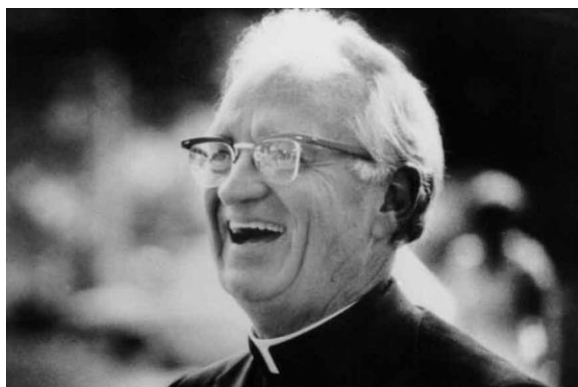
Closing the discussion, Mr. Beblawi then discussed what we can do to support Palestinian voices and speak out against injustice. In terms of this specific conflict, Mr. Beblawi challenged us to be informed; speak truth to power; speak out against injustice and apartheid; support humanitarian relief for victims of the conflict; and support the boycott, divestment, and sanction (BDS) movement.

CPM would add: Call your Congressional delegation and the White House, and join a local cease-fire group.

CALL AND URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO DEMAND A STOP TO THE INDISCRIMINATE SLAUGHTER OF PALESTINIANS. DEMAND A CEASE-FIRE NOW!

WHITE HOUSE SWITCH BOARD— (202) 456-1414

COMMENT LINE— (202) 456-1111



SAVE THE DATE !!!

Bishop Dingman Award Celebration April 6; 6 – 9 PM

6:00 Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres

7:30 Award Program

**Location: Holy Trinity Catholic Church
2926 Beaver Ave Des Moines**

**The Catholic Peace Ministry is happy to announce
the 26th annual Bishop Dingman Award Celebration.**

**We are thrilled to report the 2024 Bishop Dingman Award Recipients are
Sister Jeanie Hagedorn and Sister Elaine Hagedorn**

**We are honored to have Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Bishop of the Iowa Episcopal
Area, United Methodist Church give the keynote address at this special event.**



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Catholic Peace Ministry is a faith-based ecumenical peace organization that was founded in 1981 as part of the Des Moines Catholic Diocese. Since 1991 it has been independent of, and unaffiliated with, the Diocese. CPM today, is guided by an ecumenical board of directors, which follows the peace/wisdom teachings of numerous faith traditions.

Thank you for being a partner for peace with Catholic Peace ministry.