

## John Kennington

# Pax Christi member witnesses moment of grace in Los Alamos

Following God's plan for your life can sometimes be difficult and confusing. But even if we choose the wrong path, God will guide us back to the correct path, if we just look for the sign posts He places along the road.

Over the last two years God has been guiding me down a road, providing amazing sign posts to keep me on the correct path.

I am a member of the Pax Christi Community of Eastern Oklahoma, part of the National Catholic Peace Movement. In 2005, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, we created a bulletin insert with quotes from Catholic leaders about war and nuclear weapons.

While putting it together, I stumbled on a Web page of the Hiroshima Peace Museum in Japan. It described a series of 30 posters it would give to anyone willing to exhibit them.

This was far more involved than a simple bulletin insert! Who would do the work? It would be expensive (frames, display stands, etc.) Who would haul it around?

I raised the money from Catholics around the Diocese, and the exhibit turned into a family project. To bring a spiritual aspect, I developed a Stations of the Cross to accompany it.

Everything came together, and we displayed (and continue to display) it in parishes, schools and other churches around the Diocese. It generated sometimes heated discussion, which I hoped was what God wanted.



At one Tulsa parish we attended Mass while the exhibit was on display, and the priest worked Hiroshima into his homily. We then ended up in his line for communion. I did not personally know him, but I was wearing a Pax Christi shirt. As he raised the host before me, he noticed my shirt, and said "The Body of Pax Christi" and placed the host in my hand.

A shiver went down my spine, for surely this was God talking directly to me!

In April 2006, Father John Dear, the Jesuit peace activist, was speaking in Tulsa. He has been working tirelessly over the last several years to stop production of nuclear weapons and to have the Los Alamos National Laboratory use its intellectual power for the good of humanity.

We set up the exhibit at Monte Cassino School, where he was speaking. Father John invited me to bring the exhibit to Los Alamos for the 2006 Hiroshima Day, where he organizes a sack cloth and ashes action to repent for the mortal sin of nuclear weapons.

So I went, and I discovered this was the destination God was leading me to. A park in Los Alamos, the birthplace of nuclear weapons, was where the exhibit was meant to be.

Also present that weekend was Sister Filo Hirota, representing the Japanese Bishops Conference. She was so moved by the exhibit she gave me a paper doll. But this was no ordinary paper doll. It was made by a nun from the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Nagasaki. Her order had run a girls school in Nagasaki in 1945 which had been

vaporized, killing 214 young girls.

For the 60th anniversary she made 214 of these paper dolls, one for each girl who died.

I again took the exhibit to Los Alamos this August and saw God's clearest sign post yet. I had set up the exhibit in the park and was listening to the speakers at that afternoon's rally.

Late in the day a man and his son, about 10 years old, wandered over. He was clearly from Los Alamos and was there to make his own statement.

His T-shirt said "Nuke Berkeley," and his son's shirt said, "Los Alamos, the Nuclear City" over a mushroom cloud.

They wandered over to the exhibit and, to my surprise, spent at least 30 minutes reading every single poster. I resisted the temptation to go over and speak to them, since God was doing the talking. They then wandered slowly through the crowd, observing the activities, and quietly left. I'll never know what he was thinking, but one thing was clear to me.

The path God set me upon two years ago, the hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars, was all leading to this moment, to have the exhibit at this time and place, so God could reach into this man's soul.

*John Kennington is a parishioner at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow. If you are interested in displaying the Hiroshima exhibit, call him at 809-6325.*

## Job opportunities

**Jobs in a Box, a service to readers of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, carries ads free of charge. Brief ads will run in two issues of the EOC. Please be specific when listing skills and/or experience offered or required for a particular job.**

### Write to:

Jobs in a Box, The Eastern Oklahoma Catholic  
P.O. Box 690240, Tulsa, OK 74169

Fax your information to 294-0920.

E-mail to [easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org)

**OFFICE MANAGER** - St. Mark Parish in Pryor is seeking a fulltime office manager/secretary to publish the bulletin, answer phone calls, do accounts payable and payroll, post collections and various other office duties. Must have excellent computer skills and be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledge of Automated Church Systems software a definite plus. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday. Salary negotiable. Contact Father Celestine Obidiegwu at 918-825-4186 or submit resume via email to [okey1970@yahoo.com](mailto:okey1970@yahoo.com)

**ON-CALL PASTORAL CARE** - Saint Francis Health System has openings for pastoral care workers serving on-call, particularly on weekends. Duties include pastoral availability for patients, families and staff; assisting with Sacramental ministry and meeting multiple pastoral needs at the time of trauma and death. A combination of

education and experience required. Please call Pastoral Care Office, 494-1140.

**LIBRARY WORKERS** - Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa has an immediate opening for a library intern or library assistant. Hours are 3-8 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 3-5 p.m. on Friday. Any day school is not in session, the library will be closed. Salary will be based on education and/or work experience. Send resume as soon as possible to Mrs. Karen Govier at [kgovier@bkelleyhs.org](mailto:kgovier@bkelleyhs.org) or phone 918-627-3390.

**YOUTH MINISTER** - St. Bernard Church seeks a full-time youth coordinator. Experience in youth ministry is preferred, as is a degree in theology. Paid position. Please contact Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas at 299-9406.

**KELLEY BUSINESS OFFICE** - Bishop Kelley High School is looking for one or more parents who would like to work for a complete tuition write off or a portion of same. Must have a background in accounting, accounts payable/receivable or experience with financial transactions. Hours will be consistent with the school day and vacation schedule. Contact Christopher Whitty, vice president for finance and operations, Bishop Kelley High School 918-609-7112.

**ORGAN FOR SALE** - Allen Theater Model organ for sale, good condition, available in McAlester. Call Bob Basolo, 1-800-256-3345.

**ADJUNCT FACULTY** - The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory's University on the Shawnee

campus has openings for adjunct faculty at the undergraduate and graduate level in the fields of general education, business and business law, computer science, professional development and psychology. A master's degree is required, preference for candidates with experience teaching adults. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to [hr@stgregorys.edu](mailto:hr@stgregorys.edu) or mail to Dr. Denise Short, Associate Dean, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, OK 74804.

**PART-TIME OPPORTUNITIES** - Marquette Catholic School is taking applications for a part-time certified librarian, a part-time pre-school teaching assistant and a full-time teaching assistant. Experience working with children is preferred. For more information or to apply, e-mail Principal Pete Theban at [pete.theban@marquetteschool.org](mailto:pete.theban@marquetteschool.org)

**AFTER-SCHOOL CARE** - Marquette Early Childhood Development Center is accepting applications for after-school care teachers for ages 18 months through age 5, for the 2007-08 school year. For more information, please contact Debbi Fritz at [debbi.fritz@marquetteschool.org](mailto:debbi.fritz@marquetteschool.org)

**PREGNANCY CENTER** - Catholic Charities is seeking a creative, committed, pro-life leader to plan and direct the re-invigoration of an established pro-life crisis pregnancy center. Part-time position, salary negotiable. Position could

lead to permanent employment. Please send responses to 1921 S. Boston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119 or by email to [drkevindonovan@ouhsc.edu](mailto:drkevindonovan@ouhsc.edu)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR** - St. Joseph Parish in Muskogee seeks a music director to lead a choir and assist in planning liturgies. Experience as an organist is helpful, but not required. Please contact Father Bryan Brooks, 918-687-1351.

**HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE** - BJZ Better Jobs Housekeeping and Window Cleaning Service offers a job done right. Housekeeping, window cleaning, move-in and move-outs and commercial. Free estimates. call Julie at 902-1092.

**IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT** - The Immigration Services Department of Catholic Charities has an immediate opening for a service assistant. This part-time position (approximately 25 hours per week), daytime hours, assisting with a variety of office/clerical duties including data entry, receptionist and telephone answering activities, filing and interacting with a multi-cultural client population, providing translation of documents, and assisting clients with completion of immigration forms. Applicant must be proficient in both written and spoken English and Spanish, have basic computer skills, and provide the described functions and duties in an accurate and timely manner. A high school diploma or equivalent is required with office experience preferred. Inquiries and applications may be directed to Irma Chajeci, Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, 74148, call 582-0881, FAX 582-0883, email [iChajeci@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org](mailto:iChajeci@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org)